

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 949

TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAY LAND

949. SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:

SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:

SHRI SELVAM G:

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total land in possession of Railways in the country, State-wise especially in Odisha and Tamil Nadu as on date;**
- (b) the main features of policy governing management and use of railway land;**
- (c) the details of the total land area of Railways encroached upon by slums, State and city-wise as on date;**
- (d) the total area of encroached land got freed by the Railways during each of the last three years and current year, Zone-wise; and**
- (e) whether the Railways has assessed the loss of revenue due to encroachment of its land during the above period and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 949 BY SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL, SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI, SHRI SELVAM G AND SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.02.2023 REGARDING ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAY LAND

(a): The total land in possession of Indian Railways is 4.86 lakh hectare(approximately) as on 31.03.2022 which includes the land in the State of Odisha and Tamil Nadu. State-wise data of land holding of Indian Railways is not maintained. The Zone-wise figure of land holding is as under:-

(Figures in Hectares)

Zonal Railway	Land Holding as on 31.03.2022
Central	29421.63
Eastern	20972.87
East Central	37210.37
East Coast	22964.67
Northern	44005.53
North Central	19352.98
North Eastern	25648.15
Northeast Frontier	48357.51
North Western	26866.62
Southern	26945.53
South Central	32679.09
South Eastern	42850.92

Southeast Central	23116.57
South Western	19563.34
Western	38273.84
West Central	23658.38
Metro	148.87
Production Units	3820.30
Total	485857.16

(b): A Master Circular on “Policy for Management of Railway land” which includes provisions for leasing of Railway land for activities connected with Railway working, public infrastructure, Government Departments, Hospitals, Kendriya Vidyalayas, etc. has been issued on 04.10.2022. Railway land is leased to new Cargo related projects/facilities and renewable energy, water treatment/recycling, sewage treatment plants, etc. for exclusive use of the Railways, by transparent methods of competitive bidding. For critical infrastructure/public service utilities projects, Railway land is also leased on the specific requirement of concerned Ministries/Department/Agencies. The lease charges and lease period of Railway land is activity specific.

(c): Railways do not maintain State/ City-wise details of encroached land. Zone-wise figure of encroachment on Railway land is as under:

Railway	Land under Encroachment as on 31.03.2022 (in Hectare)
Central	52.50

Eastern	21.94
East Central	1.35
East Coast	13.04
Northern	157.89
North Central	40.98
North Eastern	23.31
Northeast Frontier	93.19
North Western	18.34
Southern	55.15
South Central	14.34
South Eastern	140.60
Southeast Central	41.41
South Western	16.26
Western	50.59
West Central	36.23
Production Units	5.69
Total	782.81

(d): The total area of land retrieved from encroachment during each of the last three years and the current year (up to December, 2022), Zone-wise, are as under:

Area retrieved from encroachment (in Hectare)				
Railway	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023 (up to 31.12. 2022)

Central	0.00	0.27	3.33	2.98
Eastern	0.00	-	0.66	1.34
East Central	0.19	0.15	0.02	0.50
East Coast	0.06	0.74	0.11	0.72
Northern	7.11	0.00	18.10	-
North Central	0.05	0.00	0.46	0.15
North Eastern	0.00	2.08	0.00	0.26
Northeast Frontier	1.07	0.07	0.67	0.13
North Western	0.09	-	0.00	0.00
Southern	0.62	-	0.00	0.00
South Central	0.45	0.26	1.38	0.28
South Eastern	0.59	0.23	0.33	0.16
Southeast Central	0.58	1.41	0.17	-
South Western	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Western	-	1.41	1.93	0.26
West Central	-	0.09	0.33	0.04
Production Units	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01

(e): At certain locations, encroachments cause bottlenecks, safety hazards in train operations and difficulties in track maintenance which at times affects both the line capacity and the throughput which ultimately affect the revenue of Railways which is not feasible to assess.

For prevention/removal of encroachments, Railways carry out regular surveys for identifying encroachments and take action for their

removal. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachments) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopris and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971), as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and police.
