

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3795
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th August, 2023

LAND IN CANTONMENT AREAS

3795. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of illegal occupation/encroachment of land in cantonment areas have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said occupation/encroachments have been causing serious operational problems;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): Total defence land under encroachment inside Cantonments under the management of Defence Estates Organisation is about 1850 acres. During 2022-2023, encroachments have been detected on defence land inside Cantonments under management of Defence Estates Organisation on an area of about 10 acres while encroachments on about 26 acres have been removed.

(c) & (d): Army authorities have informed that encroachments which were a serious threat have been removed under provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. No serious operational problems have occurred due to balance encroachments. Action as per law is initiated for removal of the encroachments.

(e): The following steps have been taken to address the problems of encroachment: -

- (i) Regular inspection of Defence Lands is carried out by the concerned offices and they are submitting annual certificates as per rules.
- (ii) Defence land records have been digitized.

- (iii) A Land Management System has been put in place wherein GIS layers of encroachments have been developed which provide information on encroachments over a period of time and helps in preventing fresh encroachments.
- (iv) Defence land Audit has been institutionalized since the year 2011-12 as a continuous process. The land audit for the year 2019-20 & 2020-21 has been completed and report for the year 2020-21 has been published.
- (v) A 'Change detection GIS tool' has been developed which provides details of encroachments over a given span of period. This tool ensures that legal action is taken against all such encroachments.
- (vi) A methodology for evaluation 'Threat of encroachment on defence land has been devised. Government has allocated funds to DGDE for construction of Boundary Walls/Fences/Pillars around defence land pockets prone to encroachments based on threat matrix.
