

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 57
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5th February, 2020

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF LAND IN CANTONMENTS

*57. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any cases of illegal occupation of land of cantonment areas have come to light;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational problems and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to redress such problems and the outcome thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF DEFENCE
j{k k ea=h

(SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)
¼Jh राजनाथ सिंह)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 57 FOR ANSWER ON 05.02.2020 REGARDING 'ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF LAND IN CANTONMENTS'

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As on 31.12.2019, approximately 1968.75 acres of defence land has been reported to be under encroachment within the Cantonment area.

(c) The illegal occupation of defence land causes following problems:

- (i) Difficulties in Municipal administration viz. providing water supply, sanitation and other municipal facilities.
- (ii) Land management issues involving keeping open areas free from encroachment.
- (iii) Living in Cantonments by unidentified floating population.
- (iv) Possibility of undesirable elements in these areas.

(d) The following steps have been taken to address the problem of encroachment:-

- (i) Respective user Services who manage defence land are responsible for its protection, removal of encroachment and planning for its land use.
- (ii) Strengthening of defence land management by way of computerisation and digitisation of land records; Survey, demarcation and verification of defence lands and land Audit.
- (iii) Regular inspection of sites under respective jurisdiction is conducted by the CEO/DEO/Station Commander as the case may be.
- (iv) Issue of detailed instructions by the Government emphasising the need for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments.
- (v) Court cases are being pursued to evict encroachers.
- (vi) Close liaison is being maintained with revenue and civil police authorities to detect attempt to encroach upon the defence land by encroachers.
- (vii) Regular patrolling is being carried out to safeguard the lands from encroachers and unauthorised construction.
- (viii) Removal of encroachments on defence land under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 as well as under the Cantonment Act, 2006.

As a result of various measures taken, 16.14 acres of encroached land in Cantonments has been recovered during the last three years.
