

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4722  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2021**

**ENCROACHMENT ON UNUSED LAND**

**4722. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total land/area owned by Railways across the country;**
- (b) the total land/area being utilised out of it and the manner in which remaining land/area is lying unutilised;**
- (c) the market price of the land/area owned by Railways;**
- (d) the total land/area of Railways under illegal occupation; and**
- (e) the steps taken to set Railways land/area free from illegal possession?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4722 BY SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.03.2021 REGARDING ENCROACHMENT ON UNUSED LAND**

**(a) and (b): As on 31.03.2020, the total land in possession of Indian Railways is about 4.81 lakh hectares, out of which, 4.30 lakh hectare is used for commercial licensing, Track and structures including stations, colonies, Afforestation and other uses like pisciculture etc. and only 0.51 lakh hectare is vacant. The vacant land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks and is utilized for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges, other infrastructure and execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways. The vacant land is also utilized for ancillary logistic support/infrastructure such as bulk oil installations and oil depots, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, connectivity to private sidings, connectivity to ports etc. for which land is leased/licensed. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, to mobilize additional financial resources.**

**(c): Monetary value of land is not assessed by Railways.**

**(d): As on 31.03.2020, approximately 814.55 hectare land is under encroachment.**

**(e): Railways is actively involved in removal of encroachment from Railway land for which it carries out regular surveys of encroachment**

**and takes action for their removal. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachments) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopris and squatters, the same are removed in consultation with and assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For other encroachments, 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.**

**Removal of encroachment is a continuous process. Due to consistent efforts of Railways, during the past three years approximately 47.15 Ha area of railway land has been retrieved.**

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