

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 414  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024**

**WIDESPREAD ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAYS LAND**

**414. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:**

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

**(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Railways - on the Performance of Rail Land Development Authority -(2022-23) and if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether it is true that nearly 782.81 hectares of railway land is under encroachment across various zones and if so, the details thereof;**

**(c) whether the Government has established a timeline for the removal of all encroachments, excluding in those cases where the matter is subjudice and if so, the details thereof;**

**(d) whether the Government is collaborating with local bodies and authorities to combat encroachment of railway land, especially in metropolitan cities and if so, the details thereof;**

**(e) whether the Government has conducted-or is planning to conduct - any surveys by field officers and to set up a proper monitoring mechanism to check the working of these officers; and**

**(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (F) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 414 BY DR. SHASHI THAROOR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.07.2024 REGARDING WIDESPREAD ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAYS LAND**

**(a) to (d): Standing Committee on Railways (2022-2023) in its Sixteenth Report on Performance of Rail Land development Authority has appreciated the fact that developmental activities by RLDA have picked up pace following the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, the number of commercial sites and colonies awarded to developers has shown a significant increase, and the revenue of RLDA (Rail Land Development Authority) was highly encouraging during 2019-20.**

**Recommendations of the committee accepted by Ministry of Railways includes phased approach to redevelopment prioritising stations based on factors like passenger footfall, connectivity and strategic importance; focussing on development and monetising its existing land bank, maximising the value of these assets; creation of centralised database to store land records in a digital format; to conduct survey by field officials and setting up proper monitoring mechanism to check the working and outcome of field officers and surveys respectively, establishment of dispute resolution mechanism within the contracts by RLDA,etc.**

**As on 31.03.2022, a total of 782.81 hectare (0.16%) of Railway land was under encroachment in various parts of the country.**

**To increase the capacity, Indian Railways has taken up massive infrastructure expansion works such as multitracking, major yard remodelling, maintenance facilities etc. Availability of encumbrance free land is an important component for any infrastructure project. At many locations, railway land is encroached.**

**In order to get this land vacated, sufficient opportunity is given by railway administration to people occupying railway land unauthorisedly before undertaking any action for eviction to minimise the hardship to the people.**

**Also, railways co-operate with State Government to ensure proper resettlement of the displaced people.**

**(e) & (f): A proper monitoring system is in place in Indian Railways to prevent encroachment on Railway land. Field officials inspect the section and areas prone to encroachment as per laid down schedule. The details of field surveys are recorded in encroachment registers which are maintained and regularly updated by field officers. Monthly reports are prepared on additions and removal of encroachments, filing eviction cases and their progress in court of Estate Officer, in Civil Courts etc.**

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