

#### **Rahabilitation of people residing on railway land**

†\*178. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that people of poor families are residing unauthorisedly on railway land along railway tracks of Surat, Udhna, Vadodara and Ahmedabad;

(b) whether any necessary steps are being taken by the Ministry for rehabilitation of these poor families in collaboration with Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Government of Gujarat, to vacate railway land and to get rid of filth and frequent accidents; and

(c) the details of the steps taken, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) There are unauthorized encroachments on Railway land including those along the Railway tracks in Surat, Udhna, Vadodara and Ahmedabad. On Indian Railways, about 0.23% of the total land holding is encroached. Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to prevent fresh encroachments by protecting Railway land/property by providing boundary walls, fencing, tree plantation, etc. Railways have decided to deal with the issue of encroachments in a humane manner. Housing, being a State subject, resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of encroachers is the responsibility of the State Govt. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has issued guidelines under the scheme 'Rajiv Awas Yojana' (RAY) in this regard. The issue of rehabilitation of slums existing in close proximity of Railway tracks has been taken up with Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for relocation of slums under RAY.

#### **Global epidemic of wheat, UG-99**

†\*179. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that global epidemic of wheat, UG-99, a fungal disease, has reached up to Iran from Africa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent the arrival of this epidemic into India, so that the production of wheat in the country would not be affected?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ug-99, a fungal disease of wheat, has reached Iran from Africa.

(b) Indian wheat varieties have been evaluated in Kenya and Ethiopia against stem rust race Ug-99 and around 30 of these varieties have been found to carry resistance to this disease. Ug-99 resistant genetic stocks are being used in wheat breeding programme to develop disease resistant varieties. Surveys are carried out to keep watch over ingress of Ug-99.

#### **Opening of mega food parks**

\*180. SHRI. BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to open 15 more Mega Food Parks in addition to the 15 approved/sanctioned Mega Food Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where these Mega Food Parks are being opened;

(c) the status of Mega Food Park being opened in Punjab;

(d) by when the Mega Food Park will be fully operational; and

(e) whether there is plan to allot one more Mega Food Park to Punjab in view of the large supply of raw material in the State for Mega Food Park?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Govt. has approved setting up of 15 more Mega Food Parks in addition to 15 already approved/sanctioned Mega Food Parks in the 3rd phase of Scheme implementation.

(b) Expression of Interest (EoI) has been called for 15 new Mega Food Parks from all across the Country. Subject to fulfilment of the basic eligibility as per the guidelines, one Mega Food Park each will be considered for hitherto uncovered States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa and Pondicherry and as per policy of the Government for NE region, setting up of one Mega Food Park may be considered for NE region including Sikkim. After ensuring the above, additional Mega Food Park may be considered from the rest of the States with the provision that no single State will be allotted more than two Mega Food Parks in total.