

**Policy change in land use pattern for railway projects**

\*343. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring about a comprehensive policy change in land use pattern for the execution of railway projects across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (c) The total land available with the Railways is 4.58 lakh hectare out of which 4.11 lakh hectare is utilized for Railway's operational purposes and allied usages leaving 0.47 lakh hectare as vacant land. The vacant lands will be used for further expansion of the Railways. Hence there is no change in Land Use Policy apart from the existing Land Use Pattern. However, for execution of major railway projects like new lines, and if required for doublings and gauge conversions, Railway production units, etc., land is acquired through State Governments as per provisions of prevalent Acts governing land acquisition.

**Repealing of archaic laws**

\*344. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has directed each Ministry/Department to identify ten laws/Acts that are considered archaic or redundant for repealing;
- (b) if so, whether an institutional mechanism has established for rationalization and simplification of such laws; and
- (c) the expected date by when the proposed exercise would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Twentieth Law Commission was constituted on 1st September, 2012 for three year's term and whose terms of reference include "Review/Repeal of obsolete laws". The law Commission is actively pursuing to identify laws which are no longer needed and relevant and can be repealed immediately. Legislative Department has also initiated a proposal the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014 and requested all the Ministeries/Departments of Government of India to provide list of amending Acts from 1999 onwards, retention whereof on the statute book has become unnecessary.

(c) Exact date of completion of this exercise cannot be given as of now, as the report of the Law Commission of India and the information about the repeal of the legislations are still awaited from the Ministeries/Departments.