

and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same is got removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, 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. During the last three years, 89 hectares encroached land has been retrieved.

In order to safeguard Railway land, regular inspections are carried out at various levels. In case, any trespass is noticed which may eventually lead to encroachment, it is removed there and then. The land records are regularly updated and got verified from revenue authorities. Besides these regular measures, keeping in view the seriousness of the issue, the digitized mapping of land records has been initiated and it has been decided to fix responsibility on officials for any encroachments. To protect Railway land, Railways also takes measures like provision of boundary wall, tree plantation at vulnerable locations, Grow More Food Scheme etc.

Electrification of railway route

1595. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karaikal Port-Thiruvapur-Thanjavur-Tiruchirapalli and Nagapattinam-Velankanni route has been identified for electrification;

(b) if so, the progress made so far on the above line; and

(c) the amount that has been allocated since its identification, year-wise and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Electrification of Tiruchirappalli - Nagapattinam - Karaikkal Port rail line (153 Route Kilometres) has been included in Rail Budget 2015-16 at an estimated cost of ₹224.11 crore. The work has been entrusted to Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Allahabad for execution.

(c) ₹ 20.01 crore has been allocated for 2016-17. Depending upon the overall availability of resources, the targets for commissioning of Railway Electrification projects are fixed on yearly basis.