

forming a zone; smooth movement of traffic operations; with a view to providing better control and to improving the efficiency of the system. The suggestion to place Uttarakhand under one railway zone, when examined in the light of above, has not been found feasible.

Encroachment on railway land

3463. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD:

MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding encroachment of railway land all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to make this land free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) At present, out of 4.73 lakh hectare land assets available with Indian Railways, approximately 879.51 hectare (0.18%) land is under encroachment. The Railways do not maintain State-wise details of encroached railway land. However, zone-wise details/data are maintained by Railways and the same are as under:-

Zonal Railway	Land under encroachment (in Hectares)	Zonal Railway	Land under encroachment (in Hectares)
Central	59.31	Southern	60.49
Eastern	20.71	South Central	17.62
East Central	2.40	South Eastern	156.17
East Coast	15.28	South East Central	49.15
Northern	206.37	South Western	16.26
North Central	40.98	Western	41.44
North Eastern	25.63	West Central	36.68
Northeast Frontier	106.26	Production Units	5.74
North Western	19.02	Total	879.51

Railways carry out regular surveys and take action for removal of encroachments. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation with and 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. Removal of encroachment is a continuous process as a result of which, in last two years and current year (up to February'2017) 80.81 hectares of encroached land has been retrieved. Railways have taken measures to protect Railway land assets from encroachment which include licensing of land to Railway employees for Grow More Food (GMF) scheme, provision of boundary wall, fencing and tree plantation at vulnerable locations.

Air conditioned sleeper and general category coaches

†3464. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to air condition the sleeper and general category coaches;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Government is not considering to air condition the sleeper and general coaches at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Guarantee of loan taken by railway employees

†3465. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways release loans to its employees (Stakeholders) from cooperative committees/banks and Railways give guarantee of refund of this loan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.