

- (c) the details of progress of the works in the crucial railway project; and
- (d) the details of components of the Trans Asian railway network and its progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Jiribam-Imphal new line project (111 km) has been taken up at an anticipated cost of ₹ 6571 crore to connect Imphal, the capital city of Manipur. An expenditure of ₹ 5278 crore has been incurred upto March, 2017 and an outlay of ₹ 1400 crore has been provided for 2017-18 for this project. Jiribam-Vangaichungpao (12.5 km) section has been commissioned in March, 2017. Earth work, bridges work and tunnel work have been taken up in Vangaichungpao-Tupul-Imphal section. The project is getting prolonged mainly due to law and order problems in the project area. Further, economic blockade during 2016-17 had drastically affected the progress of the work.

State Government has been requested to augment the number of security personnel deployed in the project area. Railway has also requested Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for deployment of Territorial Army (TA) for improved security at the project sites.

Jiribam- Imphal and Imphal-Moreh new railway lines are part of the Trans-Asian railway network in Indian portion.

A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey from Imphal to Moreh (111.25 km) new line has also been carried out in 2013-14. As per survey report, cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 5216.75 crore with Rate of Return (-) 7.43%.

Survey to identify safai karamcharis

951. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have undertaken any survey to identify the number of its Safai Karamcharis during the period 2014-17;
- (b) if so, how many have been contractually employed by third-party agencies;
- (c) the number of contractual/non-contractual employees who are currently involved in manual cleaning of human excreta from tracks and railway stations;
- (d) whether during 2014-17, Railways have conducted an audit of the third-party agencies which hire Safai Karamcharis on contractual basis; and
- (e) the number of cases which have been filed against agencies who have failed to provide protective gears to Karamcharis along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Encroachment of railway land

952. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway land is under encroachment in all metro cities and urban areas;

(b) if so, the State-wise and Zone-wise land encroachment details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has asked Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to formulate a unified policy to deal with the problem; and

(d) the action taken and further proposal of Government for eviction, protection and proper utilization of railway land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) As on 31.03.2017, out of 4.76 lakh hectare land available with Indian Railways, only approximately 862 hectare (0.18%) land is under encroachment. Most of the encroachments are in the approaches of the Stations in Metros and big cities in the form of slums.

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)
Central	59.21
Eastern	20.57
East Central	2.09
East Coast	14.76
Northern	205.54
North Central	40.97
North Eastern	25.63
Northeast Frontier	102.14
North Western	18.86
Southern	60.39
South Central	17.13