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

Zonal Railway	Land under encroachment (in Hectares)
South Eastern	150.17
South East Central	46.03
South Western	16.26
Western	41.42
West Central	34.80
Production Units	5.74
TOTAL	861.71

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 then and there. The land records are regularly updated and got verified from revenue authorities. To protect railway land, Railway also takes measures like provision of boundary wall, tree plantation at vulnerable locations, etc.

Railways carry out regular surveys of encroachment and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of a temporary nature (soft encroachments) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopris and squatters, the same 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.

For more effective dealing with the encroachments on Government land, Ministry of Railways has advised to Ministry of Urban Development, as agreed by Ministry of Law, amendment in Section-11 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971) by insertion of Section-10-A in Section-11 of the Act as under:

"Section 10 – A The State Government authorities shall be responsible for eviction of the unauthorized occupants, destruction and removal of all the unauthorized constructions and unauthorized additions/alterations thereto, and /or for providing adequate assistance by way of Police and Magistrates to the concerned Central Government authorities for eviction of the unauthorized occupants, destruction and removal of all the unauthorized constructions and unauthorized additions/alterations thereto within certain time limits to be prescribed by the Estate Officer."