

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As on 31.03.2018, out of 4.77 lakh hectare land available with Indian Railways, approximately 844.38 hectare (0.18%) land is under encroachment.

(b) In order to safeguard Railways 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. In addition, land registers are being maintained by each Division of Railways which are regularly monitored by Head Office of each Railway. Also, it is being monitored at Ministry level.

(c) If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same are 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. The removal of encroachments is a continuous process, as a result of which in the years 2016-17 and 2017-18, 34.45 hectares of land has been retrieved.

**Doubling and electrification of Madurai-Vanchi  
Maniyachi-Thoothukudi route**

118. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has given top priority to the speedy completion of Madurai-Vanchi Maniyachi-Thoothukudi line doubling project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is also undertaking electrification of the second line in Madurai-Vanchi Maniyachi-Thoothukudi rail project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Madurai-Vanchi Maniyachi-Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) doubling (160 km) with electrification was included in the Budget 2015-16 subject to requisite approvals. Sanction to the project and its Detailed Estimate amounting to ₹ 1182.31 crore has been obtained in August, 2017. An

expenditure of ₹ 341.83 crore has been incurred upto March, 2019 and outlay of ₹ 170 crore has been provided for the year 2019-20.

On this project, earthwork, bridge works, ballast supply etc. on entire stretch have been taken up. During 2019-20, Kadambur-Tattapparai (30 km) section is targeted for commissioning and Madurai-Kalligudi (30.92 km) and Kalligudi-Satur (38.26 km) sections are planned for commissioning during 2020-21 and remaining portion of the project is planned for commissioning by 2021-22.

**Utilisation of funds from PMGSY to improve road  
connectivity in Chhattisgarh**

†119. SHRI RAM VICHARNETAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to utilize the funds from Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to improve road connectivity in Naxal-affected and backward areas of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the State-wise and area-wise details of the allocation and utilization of funds under PMGSY during the last three years and the current year in Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR):  
(a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network with a population of 500 persons and above (Census 2001) in plain areas. In respect of North Eastern States (*i.e.* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) and Hill States (*i.e.* Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme), the Tribal (Schedule V) areas and Selected Tribal and Backward Districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the erstwhile Planning Commission), the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 250 persons and above (Census 2001). In the critical 267 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected blocks (as identified by MHA), additional relaxation has been given to connect habitations with population 100 persons and above (2001 Census).

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.