

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Area under encroachment (in Hectare)	914.80	879.51	861.70	844.38	821.46

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

The vacant land of Railways, which is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks, is utilized for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other infrastructure. The vacant land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs for Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc.

As per extant policy of Ministry of Railways, Railway's vacant land is provided to private individuals on license basis only for the purposes directly connected with Railway working. Vacant land which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational use is also utilized to generate revenue through commercial development on long term lease basis by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible. Beside this, vacant land, if not required by Railway, can be provided to State Government/other Central Government/Public Sector Units, etc. on long term lease basis for public utility purposes as per the extant guidelines.

#### **Passenger train connectivity with neighbouring countries**

2193. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that among the six neighbouring countries with which India has land connectivity, it has passenger rail connectivity with only one;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are plans to start passenger train connectivity with the other neighbouring countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) At present, India is having passenger rail connectivity with two neighbouring countries having land connectivity out of six such countries, namely Bangladesh and Pakistan. Passenger services with Bangladesh are operational while passenger services with Pakistan are currently suspended since 16.08.2019.

There are two passenger rail connectivity projects with Nepal under execution namely Jogbani (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal) and Jayanagar (India) to Bardibas (Nepal).

The planning of passenger rail connectivity projects with neighbouring countries is a complex process, as it depends on number of works to be done by the associated neighbouring country. The execution of such projects can commence only after all associated issues are resolved.

#### **Corporatization of coach factories**

2194. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to corporatize coach factories like Rae Bareilly Modern Rail Coach Factory and RCF units in Kapurthala and Chennai;

(b) if so, whether all the stakeholders like contractors, employees, State Governments have been consulted;

(c) the rationale behind corporatization of these coach factories;

(d) whether the interests of workers, both direct and indirect, including contract workers would be taken care of, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to ensure that the career prospects and terms and conditions of workers are not altered to their detriment, with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Ministry of Railways have envisaged preparation of an action plan for corporatization of its Production Units including Rail Coach Factories.