

- (b) the cost of the land occupied illegally; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Government to take back possession of such land thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) As on 31.03.2019, out of 4.78 lakh hectare land available with Indian Railways, approximately 821.46 hectare land (0.17%) is under encroachment. The Railways do not maintain market price of land as it is governed by various factors and keeps on fluctuating. Railways carry out regular surveys for identifying encroachments 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 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 removal of encroachments is a continuous process, as a result of which in the years 2017-18 and 2018-19, 16.68 hectares and 24 hectares of land has been retrieved respectively.

Timelines for completion of various railway projects/lines in Odisha

1403. DR. SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time for completion of Bhubaneswar-Mancheswar triple line project;
- (b) the time-frame for completion of Khurda-Bolangir railway line project and the reasons for the delay in completion; and
- (c) the time-frame for completion of the new Brahmapur-Sambalpur *via* Phulbani, Bhanjanagar railway line project, the work of which has been awarded to Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Ltd. (ORIDL)?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Railway has taken up work of Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line (32.34 km.), costing ₹396 crore. The expenditure incurred upto March, 2019 is ₹381 crore and an outlay of ₹8 crore has been provided in the Budget 2019-20.

So far 25.73 km. has been commissioned. Work in balance section has been taken up.

(b) Railway has taken up work of Khurda Road-Bolangir New Line (289 km.), costing ₹3798.80 crore. Expenditure incurred upto March, 2019 is ₹1327.09 crore and an outlay of ₹350 crore has also been provided in the Budget 2019-20.

This project is of 289 km. length and divided into two parts. 1st part is from km 0 to km 112 and 2nd part is from km 112 to km 289. 1st part (km 0 to km 112) is fully funded by Railway, while, 2nd part (from km 112 to km 289) is on cost sharing in which, the land is to be provided free of cost by Government of Odisha along with sharing 50% cost of construction.

So far, 92 km. length of the project has been completed and commissioned. Land acquisition and forestry clearance have been taken up in balance section and work taken up in available land.

The timely completion of any railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities (both underground and over ground), statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions, cooperation and zeal of State Government for early completion of project, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble Courts, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project. Hence, no confirmed time-frame can be given for completion of project at this stage.

(c) In-Principle approval for the new Brahmapur-Phulbani-Sambalpur (240.5 km.) railway line project has been given to Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Ltd. (ORIDL), a Joint Venture Company of Ministry of Railways and Government of Odisha for taking up pre-investment activities, which include "preparation of feasibility report, Detailed Project Report, Survey work" etc. The confirmed time-frame for completion of the project has not been fixed at this stage.