

Further consideration of the project would depend upon the results of survey and availability of resources.

Encroachment on Railway Land

3116. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the area of the land of North East Frontier Railways under illegal possession of the encroachers, location-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to remove the encroachers; and

(c) the extent of annual loss incurred by NEF Railway on account of the unauthorised encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 304 hectares of railway land is under illegal occupation of encroachers on N.F. Railway. The Division-wise break-up is as under :

Division	Area (Ha)
Alipurduar	133
Tinsukia	17
Katihar	19
Lumding	86
Maligaon	49

(b) Measures are taken by the Railway Administration to remove the encroachments within the ambit of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and with the cooperation of State Government.

(c) No loss has been sustained as these lands were kept vacant for railway's future developmental programme.

Forest offences

3117. SHRIMATI MENAKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to unaffected and laxity in implementation of the various Forest Laws and Acts, the forest offences are increasing;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce Forest Laws and Acts effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No report of increase in forest offences due to laxity in implementation of Forest Laws and Acts has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure better implementation of Forest Laws and Acts following steps have been taken by the Government :

(i) Strengthening of Regional offices of the Ministry for monitoring and/or increased liaison with State/Union Territory Governments.

(ii) Financial assistance to State/Union territory Governments for strengthening protection and communication network.

(iii) Institution of schemes of rewards and incentives for detection of forest offences, including poaching of wild animals, in some of the States.

(iv) Promotion of people's participation in protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management.

(v) Constitution of Social Audit Panel to assess the programmes of this ministry and suggest corrections where necessary.

Railway Station of Surendranagar

3118. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large area of land of old railway station of Surendranagar is lying unused after shifting it to the new site;

(b) if so, the total areas of this land and number of structures made thereon; and

(c) the time by which the station at the new site would become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 24.69 hectare land is lying surplus due to the conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge and shifting of the metre gauge line from the city area to an outside location. The total area of the two buildings thereon is 1146.56 Sq. Mt.

(c) The station at the new site has started functioning.

Mushroom Cultivation

3119. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase areas under mushroom cultivation in the country particularly in Orissa;