GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RAILWAYS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5122
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
DEMOLITION OF SLUMS IN MUMBAI
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;DR.
KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has objected to the demolition of the slums on the railways` land in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the World Bank has been funding the rehabilitation of slum dwellers on railways` land in Mumbai under certain conditions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has also issued directions to stay the demolition for the time being;
- (f) if so, the reasons for demolishing the pre-1995 slums;
- (g) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;
- (h) if so, the outcome thereof and steps taken against the guilty officials; and
- (i) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the implementation of rehabilitation plan of the slum dwellers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

- (a) to
- (i): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO

- (i) OF LOK SABHAUNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5122 ASKED BY SHRI DILIP KUMMARNSUKHLAL GANDHI, SHRI KIR SOMAIYA, SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOKUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALIND SHRI BHIM DAHAREGARDING DEMOLITION OF SLUMS IN MUMBAI.
- (a) to (d): The World Bank is considering funding of the projects falling in the Mumbai Urban Transport Project Scheme which are proposed to be undertaken jointly by the Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways. Rehabilitation of the people affected by these projects would also be a part of this scheme and would accordingly be considered for funding by the World Bank. This also includes rehabilitation of people living on railway land unauthorisedly, in terms of the policy formulated by Government of Maharashtra in this regard.
- (e) & (f): Railway in consultation with Government of Maharashtra had started a drive on Mankhurd-Kurla-Vadala Section for eviction of post 1.1.95 encroachers. After complaints that some pre-1995 encroachers had also been removed, the drive was temporarily stopped by the Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra have now decided to associate a Non-Governmental Organisation in identification of the pre-1.1.95 encroachers to rehabilitate them in the tenements constructed by the Mumbai Housing and Development Authority as per their Policy and simultaneously remove post 1.1.95 encroachers.
- (g): No, sir.
- (h): Does not arise.
- (i) Encroachments on railway land are treated as unauthorised occupation of the railway property and are treated in accordance with the provisions of law. Railway have no policy for undertaking rehabilitation of unauthorised occupants of its land which is the prime responsibility of the State Government. However, in the case of MUTP projects, in view of the funding of these projects by the World Bank whose policy requires rehabilitation of all project affected persons, and also as the cost of the project is being shared with the GOM on a 50:50 basis; Railways have agreed as a one time exception, to share the cost of rehabilitation of Project Affected People of the MUTP with the Government of Maharashtra.