

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:246
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
ENCROACHMENT ON DEFENCE LAND
Alagiri Shri S. ;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the defence land under encroachment in various States of the country including Maharashtra, State-wise;
- (b) the measures being taken to remove the encroachment and reclaim these land;
- (c) whether any investigation was conducted and the officials of the Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) in such cases were found to be in connivance and if so, the details of the outcome thereof and the action taken against them and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any policy for utilization of the abandoned/unused defence land for better public use in a time-bound manner and if so, the details thereof and the action taken for its implementation; and
- (e) the measures taken to streamline and bring in an effective and transparent system for management/use of defence land and to delineate the accountability of officials of DGDE at different levels?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 246 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2011

- (a) The State wise details are Annexed.
- (b) Action for removal of encroachment is taken under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants), Act, 1971 as well as under the Cantonments Act, 2006. Detailed instructions emphasizing the need for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments have been issued by the Ministry. The process of detection and removal of the encroachments is a continuing exercise.
- (c) There has been no report on alleged involvement of officials of the Directorate General of Defence Estates (DGDE) in the cases related to encroachment.
- (d) Defence land is meant primarily for various defence needs. The requirement of defence land is, gradually increasing and hence cannot be frozen at any point of time. Keeping in view both present and future requirements of the Services, no defence land including land which is presently vacant, can be declared surplus or utilized for public use.
- (e) In order to prevent misuse of defence land, steps have been initiated to streamline its proper management and its protection. The project on computerization of Military Lands Register and General Lands Register has been implemented. Two projects, one on Digitisation of land records and the other on Survey of Defence land using modern technology have been sanctioned recently. Both the projects are to be carried out in time-bound manner. Further, considering the importance of land as a national resource, it has been decided to resume land audit of Defence lands. Existing government rules make sufficient provisions to hold officials of Defence Estates responsible if they fail to perform the assigned duties.