

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2785  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015  
CLOSURE OF ROADS IN CANTONMENT BOARD AREAS  
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether army authorities are resorting to closure of public roads in Cantonment Board areas without following the procedure laid down under Section 258 of the Cantonment Act, 2006 leading to grave inconvenience to general public;
- (b) if so, the details of such public roads closed by army authorities in different Cantonment Areas in violation of the Cantonment Act, 2006 particularly in Secunderabad Cantonment Area;
- (c) whether the Government has directed the army authorities to follow due process of law in this matter, if so, the details thereof and the details of public roads in Cantonment Board Areas which were closed by Army authorities which are now ordered to be reopened;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make alternate land allotted for roads in Cantonment Areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) to (c): Reports and references have been received in the Ministry about closure of roads by Military authorities in various Cantonments including Secunderabad Cantonment. Ministry of Defence has issued instructions to Service Headquarters on 7.1.2015 directing that no public road, outside unit lines, in a Cantonment shall be closed by any authority other than a Cantonment Board, for any reasons other than security and without following the procedure laid down under Section 258 of the Cantonments Act, 2006. Where it becomes unavoidable to close any road, efforts should be made to provide an alternative road before enforcing the closure order. The roads which are already closed without following the procedure shall be opened forthwith and closed again, if such closure is required, after following laid down procedure and obtaining the statutory approval. Following the instructions, 24 roads have been opened by the Military authorities in various Cantonments so far.

(d) & (e): Defence land is provided for development of infrastructure including construction of roads on case to case basis.