

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3169

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2015

Defence Land

Mahendran Shri C.;Parthipan Shri R.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has leased defence land worth thousand crore at a meagre amount as an annual rent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his ministry has expressed its inability to fix responsibility due to involvement of multiple authorities relating to the said issue and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to create a single unified authority to look into management of defence land and fast-track recovery of encroached land; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): Leases of defence land have been given from time to time for various purposes inside and outside Cantonments. These leases (including expired leases) number 6556 and cover an area of 6360 acres. Most of these leases have been given long time back under the provisions of Cantonment Codes of 1899, 1912 and Cantonment Land Administration Rules (CLAR) 1925 & 1937. Rents and premium (wherever applicable) was fixed at that point of time based on prevalent land value. The lease rent is revised as per terms and conditions of the lease which permit enhancement only upto 50% at the time of renewal of lease. In addition leases have been given for purposes such as Kendriya Vidyalayas, Army Public Schools, banks, sports facilities, petrol pump sites, recreational clubs, ECHS etc. based on Government orders. In many such cases concessional / token rents are charged. As per available information, total annual rent to the tune of Rs.2,52,51,853/- is recovered from such sites.

(c) The Ministry makes all attempts to apply prescribed laws, rules and instructions scrupulously. Whenever a case of individual negligence or misdemeanor in the matter of land management comes to notice it is investigated departmentally or is got investigated through an independent agency.

(d) & (e): The responsibility for management and protection of Defence Land and removal of encroachments are clearly assigned to various land management agencies, through Ministry instructions, CLAR 1937 and ACR Rules. Monitoring and supervision of these activities are undertaken by Service Headquarters and DGDE and overall control is exercised by the Ministry. In the context of the above, the Ministry is of the view that a single unified authority would not be necessary.
