

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4605
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014
LAND AND WATER RESOURCES IN RAILWAYS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to conduct audit of its land and water resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total estimated land and water resources under Railways at present and extent to which these are being utilised for its own purposes; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (c): Railways conduct the audit of its land every year by way of verifying land records. As on 31st March 2014, the total land available with the Railways is 458589 hectare out of which 412180 hectare is utilized for Railways' operational purposes and allied usages leaving 46409 hectare as vacant land. The vacant Railway land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks, which is required for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other infrastructure. The vacant railway land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways and include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources.

Railways also conduct audit of adequacy of water resources every year before the start of summer season. Railway has also decided to get a third party audit conducted in a time frame of six months at New Delhi, Delhi Junction and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway stations so as to maximise utilisation of water and to minimise water wastage.