

Unused compound of Kanjur Railway Station

*439. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a vast unused Railway compound at Kanjur Railway Station, Bombay;

(b) whether at present, this land is vacant and used by anti-social elements and a lot of garbage keeps on accumulating there; and

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to give in small patches of this land to the educated unemployed on rental basis for commercial purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to Kanjur Marg Railway Station in the Bombay suburban section of Central Railway. At Kanjur Marg Railway Station, to the west of the Railway track, there is a circulating area measuring 94 metres *32.4 metres. It will not, however, be correct to call this area unused since this area serves as circulating area.

(b) At present this land is vacant. there is no accumulation of garbage on this land, and it is not used by anti-social elements.

(c) There is no proposal to licence this land in small pieces on rental basis for commercial purposes to educated unemployed.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, our Golmal Minister says there is no Golmal here. But I would like to say that he should visit there and not rely on these reports.

AN HON. MEMBER: Can he say Golmal Minister?

AN HON. MEMBER: He has not called the Minister Golmal.

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DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, I would say Golmol.

Sir, this is part of my Constituency. There is vacant land like this and only at one end there is a circulating part, it is not part of it. Anyway, Sir, I would like to know the Railway Ministry's policy in regard to the question on vacant lands of this kind. In my Constituency, and in Bombay in general, the Railway Ministry has large amount of land which it has not been able to utilise on which alternative uses are there. In fact, slums are already there in many places. What is the Railway Ministry's policy towards vacant land that they have and which they cannot utilise?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, the policy of the Government so far as the vacant lands of Railways are concerned is to develop it in the interest of the Railways as a first preference. So far as specific place of Kanjur area is concerned, it cannot be given even though the Government has got the greatest sympathy for educated unemployed to be employed, for in this connection it cannot be given to the educated unemployed for licensing purposes for the simple reason to have additional facilities and amenities to the Railway users. We need this.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: My second question—Is the Railway Ministry aware that the rates at which they are charging presently for such licensing arrangement is four times higher than what the State Government of Maharashtra is charging for its own land.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, it is up to the person who come forward with our terms, they will be given. Because it is an entirely different organisation, we cannot fall in line with the same policies and programmes of the State Government.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Is the State Government foreign Government?