

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It mainly emphasizes on terminal methods and by the time the terminal methods are applied particularly in the case of women, they have already passed the age where they are most fecund in the sense that they would have already given birth to the desired number of children.

AN HON. MEMBER : Undesired.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is undesirable to you; but it is desired by them. What the unofficial experts in this line suggest is that more emphasis should be laid—more allocation of funds and people etc.—on non-terminal methods and that also will have to be supported by proper programmes for motivation which can be done through the Government controlled media like Doordarshan, All India Radio and other newspapers, creating a separate ethos and separate motivation for a small family norm which has not yet been achieved. What is the Government thinking on these two points ?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : I would like to partly answer to the question of the hon. Member that 57% of the acceptors in 1986-87 were of methods other than sterilisation.

Allotment of Surplus Railway Land

*230. **SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the surplus railway land in different zones ; zone-wise;

(b) the railway land in unauthorised possession, zone-wise;

(c) whether it is proposed to allot surplus land to institutions/persons on specific terms and conditions to avoid the possibility of encroachments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Infor-

mation is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do Not arise.

[*English*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, you have heard the reply. (A) : Yes, Sir. (B) : No Sir, and (C) : Very good, Sir. Today is the birthday of the Railway Minister, Scindiaji and I wish the return of his birthday for many future years. But what I would like to say is that it has become a menacing problem for the railway colonies. In many places on the railway lands colonies have been so settled that whatever Scindiaji or Government try to do it is difficult to evict them. Where will the poor people go and whatever is still left is being grabbed daily, hourly and per minute and the entire Government machinery is a silent spectator to the grabbing of this railway land. I had brought it to the notice of the Government as early as on 21.3.1984 and the Government was kind enough to send me a reply in May, 1984 saying some proposal for setting up the land management authority is under active consideration but even today in their reply they say the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. So since 1984 till today what have they been doing ? I would like to know whether this land management authority has been formed or not. If not, why not ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : It has not been formed. It was not required and that is why it was not formed.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : That means, Sir, we have been bluffed. It is the letter of the Government and not mine proposing for setting up a land management authority. Now he says it is not required. Then the reply should have been it would not be formed. If it is not required then does the Government allow that whosoever wants to acquire and grab railway land may continue and there is nothing for the railways to do now. Is that the answer of the railways ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

There is a land management directorate in the Railway Board and in the various zones and divisions. When you talked about the authority I thought you were talking about some sort of a corporation. Well that is not being set up but land management directorate is there in the Railway Board down to the divisional level.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, this has been a very big problem and we have approached the Railway Minister a number of times. The problem is accentuated by the fact that even if operation for eviction takes place it is the MPs who come and protect these people. So far as we are concerned when we have raised this issue we are accused of being anti-minorities and all that. It is our experience that in these lands people have constructed three-storeyed houses and sub-let these houses and are taking rent.

The Railways only become successful in evicting people who are poor and unemployed scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and who have no protection of their own. Therefore, firstly, I would like to know what policy the Railways have in this matter of eviction. Secondly, even though you may not have land management board, what steps are you taking to see that those vacant lands, which are at least there, are guarded by the Railway Protection Force or some other authority so that further encroachment may not take place ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, we are trying to protect railway land all over the country. We are trying to do some tree plantation programmes on our own and also handing over certain land to State Governments for afforestation programme. So, there are certain preventive measures being taken. They are very successful in some areas and not so successful in others but the attempt is certainly there.

As far as the evictions are concerned, if the hon. Member could give me the information about the specific instances, I will certainly look into that.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I have already written a letter.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I will go through it.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Is the hon. Minister aware that this problem of land management and the recovery of railway property from illegal trespassers has been examined by the Public Accounts Committee ? The Public Accounts Committee has made a recommendation requiring an amendment to the Indian Railways Act for the purpose of creating an independent statutory authority under the direct management of the railways for the purpose of vacating illegal encroachments and also for the purpose of governing relationship between the licensees and tenants of the railway lands. Is he aware of the recommendation made by the PAC ?

Secondly, are you contemplating to amend the Act for the purpose of creating an independent statutory authority ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I thank the hon. Member for the information he has given me. I will, certainly, look into it. I will go into it.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : There is a Joint Committee considering the Railways Act.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the honourable Minister about the magnitude of this problem. The details are in the process of collection. But what is the nature of the problem ? Whether it is a fact that quite a sizable number of employees out of the encroachers are the present and the former railway employees possessing land unauthorisedly and that is one of the reasons for the railways not being able to take effective action in removing the encroachments ?

If so, whether they are thinking of taking disciplinary action against such railway employees for having occupied the railway land unauthorisedly ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Whenever such specific instances come to notice, certainly disciplinary action is taken and the magnitude varies from area to area.