

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:450
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
ENCROACHMENT OF LAND
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an airstrip built during second World War period in the Air Force Stations at Hathwa in Gopalganj district and Raxual in East Champaran district of Bihar are in bad shape;
- (b) whether the land of these air force stations have encroached upon by the local people;
- (c) if so, whether the Government will improve the airstrips and remove the encroachments keeping the national interest in view; and
- (d) if so, the time by when the encroachment will be removed?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) There is an abandoned airfield situated at Hathwa in Gopalganj District, Bihar. There is no abandoned Defence airfield constructed during the second World War period in Raxaul in East Champaran District, Bihar.
- (b) The airfield at Gopalganj has been encroached upon by the local people as well as by the Forest Department, Government of Bihar.
- (c) & (d): At present, there is no operational use for Hathwa airfield. Action has been initiated for eviction of encroachers as per law. However, no time-frame can be given for removal of such encroachments.