

'45% land needed for bullet train acquired in Gujarat, Maharashtra'

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CLAIMING THAT an estimated Rs 17,000 crore will be spent for Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, Achal Khare, Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) on Thursday said 45 per cent of the total 1,380 hectares needed for the project has been acquired, which includes 360 hectares in Gujarat.

Khare, who was in Ahmedabad Thursday, said, "Till yesterday 622 hectares have been acquired for the project, of which 360 hectares are in

Gujarat.

"In Gujarat we need to acquire 5,400 private plots. Consent agreements for 2,600 plots have been signed and payments have been made. So, we have acquired 360 hectares of private land costing an estimated Rs 1,800 crore," he said.

Khare said that among the eight districts in Gujarat where land is being acquired, over 70 per cent has been completed in Vadodara and 60 per cent in Ahmedabad. "I am happy to say that all of the acquisition that has happened till now is through consent. Not one plot has been taken through compulsory acquisition," Khare said. He said as per the current assessment, R&R

including land acquisition will cost Rs 17,000 crore. "This is our assessment which can change as the compensation amounts are finalised," he added.

Claiming that NHSRCL has got good success in Maharashtra, Khare said, "Maharashtra has 97 villages covering Palghar and Thane. In Maharashtra, too, we have got good success. Among the 97 villages, only 17 are left where joint measurement survey - which is one of the first steps towards land acquisition - has not happened. We have done 41 sale deeds in Palghar and 97 have been done in Thane. So work has started there too, though work is lagging there in comparison to Gujarat."