

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5064
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have transported more quantity of goods from April 1999 to February 2000 than the stipulated target;
- (b) if so, the quantity of goods transported and the revenue earned therefrom;
- (c) whether the Government have taken some measures for transportation of more quantity of goods; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways have transported 411.48 million tonnes of goods traffic during the period from April, 1999 to February, 2000 and have realised an earning of Rs. 19,937.69 crores.

(c) & (d) During 2000-01, the incremental freight loading is expected to materialise mainly from movement of coal, cement, material to steel plants, finished steel and POL products. In order to create transport capacity for lifting this incremental traffic, adequate number of open, covered and flat wagons and locomotives have been planned. To tackle the problem of near saturation of the main freight corridors, induction of high horsepower diesel and electric locomotives has been provided for in the procurement plan. A special thrust is being given to strictly enforce block rake disciplines, augment capacities of terminals and capturing piecemeal traffic through containerisation.

In order to retain its competitiveness vis-à-vis other modes, Railways refrained from any price hike despite hike in diesel prices in November, 1999. Further, although in the Budget proposals a general 5 per cent hike has been proposed, the major revenue-earners, namely, coal, steel, petroleum and cement have been given major relief inasmuch as freight of these commodities would increase only to extent of about 2 per cent. Moreover, the concessions given earlier to imported coal has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.2000. Simultaneously, the higher classification of washed coal, which was putting domestic washed coal at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the imported variety has also been done away with.