

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:612

ANSWERED ON:02.12.1999

REGARDING SCAM IN SUPPLY OF WOODEN SLEEPERS DATE TUESDAY DECEMBER PM REPLY TO PSAMVIG PSAMVIG
RB.RAI

KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned 'scam in supply of wooden sleepers to Railways' appearing in the 'Hindu' dated August 20, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) : M/s Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation, Vadodara supplied 15,000 cum of wooden sleepers vide contract dated 2.3.93. Sleepers supplied against this contract to the Northern Railway were found defective.

Out of the total quantity of 15000 cum, 2200 cum (15,890 sleepers) were supplied to Northern Railway Construction Organisation. From this lot, 8162 Nos. of sleepers were received by Northern Railway in August, 1995. At that time, on receipt of a complaint, all the available 6561 Nos. of sleepers were checked and out of these, 6016 sleepers were found defective.

In this matter, three railway officials were considered responsible and disciplinary action under Discipline & Appeal Rules has been taken in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission.

Besides the railway officials, some other non-railway agencies are also involved. However, in order to determine their criminal involvement, the case has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigation. The CBI has since registered the case and the investigation is in progress.