

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2785

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005

DEMURRAGE RULES

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have recently notified the new demurrage rules;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have received representations from the various industry/groups against reducing the free time for loading and unloading of wagons drastically;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Railways in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): The rules regarding permissible free time for loading and unloading have been relaxed w.e.f.15.7.2005, as under:

Free time for loading and unloading of jumbo rakes has been increased uniformly from 8 hours to 9 hours.

Free time for unloading of tank wagon rakes has been increased from 5 hours to 7 hours.

Free time for mechanized unloading of open wagons has been increased from 5 hours to 6 hours.

The maximum limit of additional free time for extra shunting, placement/removal of rakes etc. has been increased to 2 hours.

(c) to (e): Some representations have been received from various sectors of Trade & Industry like Oil, Fertilizer, Cement, Coal seeking further relaxation in the free time rules and also to clarify the concept of 'additional free time'. The concept of additional free time has been clarified as follows:

"Additional Free Time, which is given on account of extra shunting for placement, removal etc. should be limited to a maximum of 2 hours (two hours). However, in cases where the additional free time had been fixed less than 2 hours as per Time & Motion Studies, the same should continue."

However, further relaxation in the free time rules have not been found feasible at present.