

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:804

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010

SHORTAGE OF RAIL RAKES

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received any requests from State Governments for additional railway rakes to clear fertilizer backlog;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to increase the number of rail rakes in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a): Ministry of Railways have received references from some of the State Governments for expeditious movement of fertilizers by rail to their states.

(b): In the current Kharif season, since April, 2010, references have been received from the Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab etc. in this regard.

(c): Railways are according priority for movement of fertilizers from Ports/Plants and rakes are being provided for loading of fertilizers in consultation with Department of Fertilizers and Department of Agriculture & Cooperation as per their requirements on placement of indents. In July, 2010 (from 1st to 25th) on an average, 55.12 rakes (adjusted for higher capacity rakes) of fertilizers have been loaded every day compared to 47.1 rakes per day in July 2009, an increase of 17%.

The Railways are continuously acquiring higher number of wagons over the years. New wagons being manufactured are also designed for carrying greater payloads. Besides this, a large number of existing wagons are being retrofitted to enable them to carry higher payloads. These steps have not only increased the number of rakes available for loading but have also resulted in moving more tonnage in each train.