

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:429

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2010

TRANSPORTATION OF COMMODITIES

Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the guidelines/instructions orders issued by the Railways for according priority for transportation/movement of different classes of commodities including fertilizer, coal etc;
- (b) whether large quantity of these commodities remained at Railway siding due to non-availability of railway wagons;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether a number of State Governments have urged the Railways for additional rakes for the movement of fertilizer and coal;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the action taken /proposed to be taken by the Railways to transport fertilizer and coal to its designated places expeditiously; and
- (g) the other steps taken by the Railways to increase the number and capacity of rakes?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 429 BY S/SHRI YASHBANT N.S. LAGURI AND RAJU SHETTI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.8.2010 REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF COMMODITIES

(a) to (c) Priority for transportation/movement of different classes of commodities including fertilizer and coal are detailed in the Preferential Traffic Order(PTO) No. 83 effective from 15th August 2009 issued by Railway Board and further extended for a period of one year i.e. upto 31st March 2011. A summary of the PTO is as under:-

1. Priority 'A'- Military Traffic when sponsored by MILRAIL and approved by Railway Board
2. Priority 'B'- Goods for emergency relief like flood, drought, earthquake etc, Foodgrains and levy sugar for Public Distribution System when sponsored by Central/State Government or nominated organizations.
3. Priority 'C'- Programmed traffic of Coal, Edible Salt, Raw Material to Steel Plant, Fertilizer and POL when sponsored by nominated authorities and approved by the Railways.
4. Priority 'D'- All other traffic not included in priority A to C.

Indian 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 Fertilisers as per their requirements on placement of indents. Availability of wagons can be assessed from the fact that fertilizer loading on Indian Railways grew by 16.75 per cent in July 2010 as compared to July 2009.

The quantity of vendible coal available at pithead and railway sidings in Coal India Subsidiaries, as furnished by Ministry of Coal, has reduced by 10.82 million tonnes as on 16.8.2010 as compared to 1.4.2010. Availability of wagons can be assessed from the fact that the loading of coal from all sources on Indian Railways increased by 10.61 per cent in July 2010 as compared to July 2009.

(d) to (f) The Central Government has mechanisms to address the issues of availability of fertilizers and coal including those represented by State Governments through institutionalized Inter-Ministerial sub-groups and committees. Movement of fertilizers is based on the priorities given by the Department of Fertilisers and on placement of indents. For coal, the dispatch programme is based on Fuel Supply Agreements (FSA) signed between customers and coal companies and actual offers by coal companies. All issues pertaining to availability of fertilizer and coal are monitored on a regular and periodic basis.

(g) 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.