

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5942
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013
CONTAINER FREIGHT
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways proposes to offer concession in freight charges for transportation of perishable products through containers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the freight rates for container transportation have been reduced or hiked during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to promote the transportation of products through containers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5942 BY SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.05.2013 REGARDING CONTAINER FREIGHT.

(a) & (b) Concession at the rate of 25% in the Haulage Rate for movement of fruits and vegetables in containers is applicable in the case of traffic sponsored by Ministry of Agriculture and/or its National Horticulture Board with effect from 15.03.2013.

(c) & (d) The Model Concession Agreement provides for periodic revisions in the haulage rates for containers. The details of changes made in the standard Container Haulage Rates during the last three years as assessed at the average lead of 1250 kilometers, are given below:

above 20 and above 26T Empty Container											
Date of											
effect											
Up to 20 Tonne Up to 26 Tonne											
Freight/ %age Freight/ %age Freight/ %age Freight/ %age											
TEU											
Incr. TEU											
Incr. TEU											
Incr. TEU											
Incr. TEU											
01.01.2011	13138	-	16925	-	18963	-	8540	-			
01.12.2012		16036		22.1%	18372	8.5%	20530	8.3%	10423	22.0%	
01.02.2013		17192	7.2%	19695	7.2%	22009	7.2%	11175	7.2%		
01.04.2013		16266		-5.4%	19695		0.0%	22009	0.0%	9698	-13.2%

In accordance with the enabling provision contained in the Concession Agreement, movement of notified commodity groups in Containers was also allowed at a 'Container Class Rate', which was initially fixed at 10 percent below the Railway Tariff for that commodity with effect from 01. 12.2010 and, subsequently, revised to 15 percent below the applicable railway tariff rates with effect from 14.02.2011.

(e) Some of the steps taken with a view to promote container traffic are listed as under:

(i) Container Train Operators have been permitted to access railway owned terminals (notified as Container Rail Terminal).

(ii) Levy of Haulage Charge with telescopic benefit has been allowed under Hub & Spoke system.

(iii) In the container Haulage Rate structure, a low weight category for voluminous cargo of 0-10 tonne has been introduced in 2012-13.

(iv) The list of commodity groups in the 'Container Class Rate' (CCR) category has been pruned down from nine to six in 2012-13; also Pig Iron and Sponge Iron were exempted from the list of commodities attracting 'Container Class Rate'.

(v) Feldspar, a mineral, has been excluded from the list of restricted commodities and allowed to be transported in containers at normal haulage rates.

(vi) In principle approval has been accorded to exempt EXIM container traffic from mandatory 100 percent weighment.

(vii) Private sidings are opened for access by container train operators to move traffic of the siding owner.

(viii) Cost effective Double stack operation of container trains has been extended upto Gurgaon area (National Capital Region) from Mundra and Pipavav ports.