

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6601

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

TRANSPORTATION OF FOODGRAINS

Panda Shri Prabodh;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvaraya Swamy

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the inter-State movement of foodgrains is carried out by the Railways and is adversely affected due to shortage of rakes and restrictions imposed by the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the alternatives envisaged by the Government in this regard indicating the annual demand and supply of rakes during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Ministry had decided to introduce dedicated special purpose vehicles for transportation of foodgrains throughout the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the organisations/institutions designated to operate these vehicles;
- (e) the cost involved in this project and the manner in which funds are proposed to be arranged and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (f) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes Madam. Most of the inter State movement of the foodgrains is carried out by the Railways which is sometimes adversely affected due to shortage of rakes and restrictions imposed by the Railways.

(b): The details of rakes demanded by FCI and rakes supplied by the Railways during the last three years and current year are as follows:

Year	Plan (in rakes)	Dispatches (in rakes)
2010-11	13003	10607
2011-12	13215	10969
2012-13	12466	10549
April 2013	1085	1030
(tentative)		

The supply of rakes by Railways are not as per requirement of FCI during few months particularly during October to March. However, the existing supply of rakes by railways is sufficient to meet the requirement of Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) for all the States/UTs. Moreover, FCI is creating additional storage capacity in various States so that during the lean season maximum rake can be availed from Railways to create/maintain suitable buffer stocks. Keeping in view the quantity of foodgrain required to be moved TPDS and OWS and economy of transportation, there is no possible substitute of Railways.

- (c): No such decision has been taken to create special purpose vehicles for transportation of food grains throughout the country
- (d): Does not arise
- (e): Does not arise
- (f) : Does not arise