

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:193
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013
MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS THROUGH RAILWAYS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of availability of rakes for transportation of various commodities, particularly, foodgrains in the country;
- (b) whether there has been any shortage in this regard particularly from Punjab and if not, the reasons for the delay in movement of foodgrains through railway rakes;
- (c) the total number of rakes made available to various States during the last three years and the current year, year and State-wise, including Punjab; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to provide adequate number of rakes as per demands and ensure speedy movement of foodgrains through railway rakes as per new projections made under the National Food Security Ordinance, 2013?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 193 BY SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 22.08.2013 REGARDING MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS THROUGH RAILWAYS

(a) Railways have sufficient rakes available for transportation of various commodities, including Foodgrains at present.

(b) No, Madam. There has been no shortage of railway rakes for movement of Foodgrains, including movement of Foodgrains from Punjab. However, there are some gaps between demand and supply due to congestions at terminals on account of poor unloading of foodgrains at terminals, limitations of terminals, seasonal fluctuations, operational constraints etc.

There has been no delay in supply of railway rakes for movement of Foodgrains. Railways accord top priority (Priority 'B') amongst all non – military traffic in covered wagons to movement of foodgrains traffic sponsored by Food Corporation of India (FCI). All such movement is decided based on the monthly movement programme submitted by Food Corporation of India (FCI). There is a constant dialogue between Railways, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India and Food Corporation of India (FCI). There is no issue pertaining to delay in availability/ movement of rakes. Supply of rakes against the indents placed for movement of Foodgrains by Food Corporation of India (FCI) at various stations is current.

(c) The total number of railway rakes made available for movement of Foodgrains from various states, including Punjab is appended.

(d) Railways have constantly been taking steps to augment its overall transportation capacity, thus ensuring speedy movement of food grains as well. These steps will also help railways in carrying additional quantity of food grains with the implementation of the National Food Security Ordinance, 2013. The various steps taken in this direction are as under:

i. Acquisition of new wagons to augment its overall wagon fleet.

ii. Introduction of high capacity covered wagons (BCNHL). Railways have added about 235 rakes of high capacity covered wagons (BCNHL) and about 17 rakes of conventional covered wagons (BCN) in the last five Financial Years and upto July 2013 in the current financial year.

iii. Introduction of "round the clock" working in the major/busy goods sheds for faster handling of rakes.

iv. To generate further capacity for handling additional freight, Railways have been going ahead with throughput enhancement works, traffic facility works, network capacity enhancement, development of freight terminals, etc.

Speedy movement of Foodgrains is also a function of rake handling performance at both loading and unloading stations.