

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3128
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014
SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY RAKES
Abdulrahman Shri ;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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

- (a) whether railways continue to be the primary mode for inter-state movement of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, whether the movement of foodgrains has been adversely affected due to the shortage of railway rakes provided during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if so, the demand and supply of railway rakes to the Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation etc. for this purpose during the said period along with its impact on the movement and availability of foodgrains;and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that inter-state movement of foodgrains is not affected in future?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) During last three years & current year, there was a gap in the rakes demanded by FCI & rakes supplied by the Railways. However, the gap is narrowing over the years. The gap in demand & supply of rakes has not affected the supply of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) etc. except in brief spells when rake supply was disrupted due to reasons like Bandh & natural calamities etc. Details of demand & supply of rakes by FCI are as follows :-

Financial Year Demand of rakes by FCI Supply of rakes by Railways %

2010-11 13003 10607 82%

2011-12 13215 10969 83%

2012-13 13890 11778 85%

2013-14 (upto Jan 14) 10561 9375 89%

Includes PDS and Export

CWC is not involved in foodgrains movement.

(d) Govt. & FCI continuously monitor the inter-state foodgrains movement to ensure availability of foodgrains for TPDS. A joint co-ordination mechanism between Railways, FCI & Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution has been set up to monitor rail movement on weekly basis. In addition, Co-ordination Committees have also been setup at regional & zonal levels to monitor foodgrain movement.