

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the salt manufacturers of Saurashtra and Kutch region of Gujarat State are in a precarious position on account of highly inadequate and irregular supply of wagons for movement of salt from various salt producing centres to different destinations in the country due to which a large quantity of salt has been accumulated at the site ;

(b) what is the monthly requirement of wagons of salt manufacturers in Saurashtra

region ;

(c) the number of wagons supplied every month ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to allot more wagons for shifting the salt from salt fields in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir. Supply/loading of salt from Saurashtra and Kutch areas was maintained at a higher level in 1984 as compared to previous two years as would be seen from the following figures :

Year	Loading (in terms of 4-wheeler wagons)		
	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge	Total
1982	43918	33083	77001
1983	45614	29044	74658
1984	46353	31416	77769

(b) and (c). On an average, monthly requirement as per indents placed is of the order of 5331 wagons both on BG and MG system ; against this the actual loading has been 4471 wagons. The wagon requirements include an element of speculative indents during peak loading months from January to April and October to December when competitive demands for wagons exist. This would be evident from the fact that indents for 3609 wagons were cancelled in Saurashtra area alone when wagon supply was easy during the lean months May to September 1984.

(d) Following steps have also been taken to further improve loading of salt from the area :

(i) quoting of concessional train load freight rates to encourage rake loading leading to improvement in the availability of wagons.

(ii) continuous monitoring of salt loading by close liaison with the trade and the salt Commissioner to keep up

despatches, in particular to difficult areas like the North Eastern region, North Bihar, Chitpur, etc.

[Translation]

Issue of Rail Passes to Freedom Fighters

*91. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had stopped issuing card passes to freedom fighters to finalise the modalities therefor ;

(b) if so, the time by which Government propose to issue card passes again to freedom fighters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is still under examination in the Ministry of Home Affairs.