

Wagons for Food Articles for Ration Shops

*348. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the complaint that the Railway wagons are not being allotted in time for carrying food articles to Kerala to be distributed through ration shops ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) what action has been taken by Government on the complaints ;

(d) whether Government had taken any steps to avoid the delay in the allotment of wagons ; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b). In November, 1980 Chief Minister, Kerala had reported about inadequate supply of wagons for movement of foodgrains to Kerala from North Zone and Andhra Pradesh. A minimum movement of one lakh tonnes per month was requested to be organised for meeting the requirement of rice for public distribution system in that State.

(c) to (e). Movement of sponsored foodgrains to various States is organised as per monthly programmes drawn up by the Food Corporation of India in consultation with the Railways. For Kerala, movement is mainly organised from stations on Northern and South Central Railways. During the period September, 1980 to November, 1980, movement from

stations on Northern and South Central Railways to Kerala was as under :—

(In tonnes approx)

	Programme	Loading from stations on Northern & South Central Railways to Kerala
1980		
September	63,000	64,320
October	63,000	66,296
November	63,000	70,280

From the figures given above, it is clear that the loading was more than the agreed programme. In December, the Food Corporation of India in coordination with the Railways had taken action for stepping up the movement of sponsored foodgrains to one lakh tonnes per month to Kerala. The actual movement from stations on Northern and South Central Railways to Kerala has been as under :—

	(in tonnes)
December, 1980	1,07,080
January, 1981	1,01,624
February, 1981	1,02,856

Modernisation of Signalling system

*349. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to modernise the signalling system to avoid accidents ;