

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3822
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
EARNING THROUGH CEMENT AND FOODGRAINS
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the share of certain products such as cement and food grains earned by railways has come down over the years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Railways to improve the percentage of their share in freight carriage?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. There has been decline in Railways share of freight traffic over the years in respect of a few commodities including cement and food-grains.

(b) As various modes of transport do develop in course of economic development of the economy, relative share of rail transport does stand to decline. However, a study conducted by Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) in 1997, shows that for traffic moving beyond 300 kilometers for which the rail mode ideally suited, Railways share was 65%.

In absolute terms also, Railways` traffic has grown steadily over the years, from level of 73.2 MT in 1950-51 to 456.3 MT in 1999-2000-more than six fold increase.

(c) Achieving a high rate of growth has been Railways objective. Various steps taken to put the Railways on a high growth path include strengthening high density corridors, modernizing various traffic facilities and terminals, up gradation of technology, providing multi-modal infrastructure to capture non-bulk piecemeal goods traffic through Container Corporation of India Ltd., simplification of rules relating to sidings, setting up warehousing facilities near Railway terminals, setting up of multipurpose private terminals, development of customer specific new wagons, better customer interaction, Volume Discount Scheme for incremental traffic, extending the new concept of Roll-on-Roll-off freight movement in trucks to provide door-to-door collection and delivery service, leasing of brake vans/parcel vans, Millennium Parcel Express between metros, launching computer based Freight Operation Information System to obtain operational information on real-time basis and provide the same to customers, etc.