

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6002  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001  
OVER LOADING OF COAL  
PRABHUNATH SINGH

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether coal is being loaded in the wagons beyond permissible limits and no action is being taken at the booking stations to stop this;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such instances came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;
- (d) whether the matter has been investigated and responsibility fixed;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the loss of revenue suffered by the Railways on this account; and
- (g) the steps taken to check this practice forthwith?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (g): A statement is attached.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of Unstarred QuestionNo. 6002 by Shri Prabhunath Singh for answerin Lok Sabha on 26.4.2001 regarding overloading of Coal

(a) It has been noticed, in some cases, various commodities including coal had been loaded beyond the prescribed limits and penal charges were levied on such overloaded wagons/rakes as per rule.

(b) Overloading of wagons/rakes at originating station can not always be detected there due to non-availability of weighbridges at the loading points, non-functional weighbridges, power failure and operational difficulties etc.

(c) The information is being gathered and will be furnished later.

(d) & (e) Based on investigations conducted, a number of coal rakes were re-weighed and penal charges levied for excess loaded coal. Staff responsible for lapses are also taken up.

(f) No assessment about the loss of revenue due to overloading is possible. Excess loading can be detected only when wagons are weighed/reweighed and in such cases freight including punitive charges are invariably levied and realised.

(g) To overcome the problem of overloading, the following steps have been taken/are being taken:

(i) The permissible carrying capacity for slack coal/Runoff Mines coal loaded in BOX 'N' enhanced to carrying capacity plus two tonnes.

(ii) Severe penalty provisions have been built in, in the Railways (Punitive Charges for overloading of wagons) Rules, 1990 as amended from time to time.

(iii) Compulsory weighment of Public coal rakes originating on Northeast Frontier Railway is presently undertaken.

(iv) A number of electronic-in-motion weighbridges are in the process of procurement and installation/commissioning at major loading points and at certain enroute locations for undertaking surprise weighment checks.

(v) Railways have revised the policy on weighbridges and gradually all-important loading points will be provided weighbridge facility.

(vi) Frequent preventive checks are arranged.