

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:74
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
NON PROVISION OF HIGHER CLASSIFICATION FOR ROCK PHOSPHATE
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a loss of revenue to the tune of Rs.65.82 crore due to non-provision of higher classification for carrying rock phosphate use for other than fertilizer;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in the matter;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make provision of higher classification for rock phosphate?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Starred Question No.74 by Shri Ramjee Manjhi for answer in Lok Sabha on 23.11.2000 regarding non-provision of higher classification for rock phosphate.

(a) & (b) Rock Phosphate is either used directly as manure or in the manufacture of complex Phosphatic fertilizers. Rock Phosphate is a low value commodity and Ministry of Railways have considered it expedient not to have higher classification for this commodity, when used for other than fertilizer purposes. Dual classification of commodities is generally avoided as this encourages corruption in the form of misdeclaration of commodity by the rail-users for availing the benefit of lower classification. Rock Phosphate booked by rail was charged at the class prescribed by the Central Government and there was no loss of revenue.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.

(e) With effect from 1.4.2000, the classification of Rock phosphate had been revised upwardly from Class 85B to Class 85.