

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1470
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
WAGONS FOR MOVEMENT OF IRON ORE
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that sufficient number of wagons are not being provided for movement of iron ore to the ports for exports;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a sudden and unexpected demand of export Iron traffic during last two and half years. Loading of export Iron Ore traffic by the Indian Railways, which was 16.66 million tonnes in the year 2002-03, increased to 26.66 million tonnes in 2003-04 (60% increase) and 38.33 million tonnes in 2004-05 (44% increase). In the first 7 months of current financial year loading of export Iron ore traffic by the Indian Railways has further increased by 13.32%.

Inspite of substantial improvement in loading, there is still unsatisfied demand of export iron ore traffic due to infrastructural constraints including capacity of ports to handle the traffic.

(c) Steps have been taken by the Indian Railways to further improve loading of export iron traffic by increasing capacity and providing better connectivity to ports. Availability of wagons is being improved by procuring more stock and improving turn-round of railway wagons.