

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3891

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2010

TRANSPORTATION OF FOODGRAINS

Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar;Saroj Smt. Sushila;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Upadhyay Seema

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have issued any guidelines for transportation of food-grains and fertilizers through containers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether additional burden has been imposed on the Indian farmers for transportation of domestic goods while freight charges have not been increased for the foreign farmers under the EXIM policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (e) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3891 BY SHRIMATI SEEMA UPADHYAY, SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR, SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ, SHRIMATI JAYA PRADA AND SHRI RAMASHANKER RAJBHAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.12.2010 REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF FOODGRAINS.

(a) to (e) Yes, Madam. In terms of provisions contained in the Concession Agreement between Indian Railways and Container Train Operators, Container Class Rates have been notified for nine commodities including Foodgrains and Chemical Manures at rate which is 10% less than the railway tariff rate for the commodity and is also exempt from busy season surcharge of 7%. These commodities are traditionally moved in trainloads at low rates in rail wagons.

As most of the foodgrain under Public Distribution System (PDS) and fertilizer for direct agricultural application, are moved by railway in its own wagons, the notification is not likely to impose any additional burden on farmers. So far as the EXIM traffic is concerned, the rail haulage rate is only a small component of the total logistics cost like ocean freight, port charges, handling charges etc. and hence not comparable with domestic transportation cost.