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Title: Shortage of rice in FCI Depots of Kerala due to alleged reluctance of Railways to arrange wagons for the supply of foodgrains.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam Chairperson, the stock of boiled rice is very low in the FCI depots of Kerala; not even a single grain of boiled rice is available in the FCI depots at Mavelikkara and Kollam for distribution to the Southern Districts of the State of Kerala. Even in the private sector, the availability of boiled rice is very low because the rice has to come from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

There is no coordination between the Railway authorities and the officials of the Food Corporation of India. The Southern Railway authorities are very much hesitant to give empty wagons to the Food Corporation of India. When we enquire with the FCI officials, they say that without the timely help of the Railway authorities they are not in a position to transport boiled rice from Andhra Pradesh to Kerala. Apart from the Public Distribution System, if this situation continues, it will lead to a rise in the prices of food grains, especially rice, in the open market.

So, I would request the Government of India that they should immediately ensure proper coordination between the Food Corporation of India and the Indian Railways, especially the Southern Railway, so that enough quantity of boiled rice is transported from Andhra Pradesh to Kerala.