

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA). (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Assam State Co-operative Marketing and Consumers Federation procures salt from a large number of stations situated along the West Coast. Many of these stations do not have facilities for block rake loading. Even where block rake loading is possible, sufficient indents are often not available to enable full trains being loaded from the same station. Consequently, such salt traffic has to be cleared piecemeal by goods trains and these wagons have to be handled in marshalling yards enroute. However, no serious delay to these wagons in transit has come to notice in recent months.

In order to make the movement faster and to minimise chances of loaded wagons being lost in transit, the Assam Government were requested to load this traffic in block rakes particularly from "Broad Gauge points on the West Coast to New Bongaigaon. Accordingly, the Assam Government have organised larger quantum of movement programme from Broad Gauge stations. With this step, the transit time for salt wagons will improve further. The availability of salt in Assam now is satisfactory.

Placement of coal wagons at the disposal of the Coal Authority of India

*96. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA: SHRI JAHARLAL
BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of wagons at the disposal of the Coal Authority

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of India during the year 1977-78, 1978-79 month-wise, for loading of coal; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to co-ordinate the work of the concerned departments to ensure fast movement of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Daily average number of wagons supplied for loading of coal/coke (excluding Singareni Coal Co., which is not under administrative control of Coal India Ltd.)

| | 1977-78 | 1978-79 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| April | 9131 | 8795 |
| May | 9159 | 8118 |
| June | 8802 | 7971 |
| July | 9222 | 8602 |
| August | 8712 | 8303 |
| September | 9090 | 7888 |
| October | 8300 | 7475 |
| November | 8704 | 7861 |
| December | 8751 | 8282 |
| January | 8853 | 8462 |
| February | 9345 | 8256 |
| March | 9287 | 8191 |

Regular dialogue is held with Department of Coal, the Coal Companies and other bulk users of wagons to minimise detention to wagons. Movement of wagons is also being regularly monitored to improve usage and availability of wagons,