

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023**

IMPORT OF WHEELS FROM CHINA

480. DR. G. RANJITH REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of wheels that Railways needed, on an average, annually for its wagons, coaches, locos, etc.;**
- (b) whether it is true that Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are unable to supply wheels to Railways and hence Railways has decided to import wheels from China, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the 'Make in India' call is defeated on this account; and**
- (d) if so, the facts in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (d): The annual average requirement of wheels for manufacture and maintenance of wagons/ coaches/locos etc of Indian Railways is about 4,40,000.

The requirement of wheels of Indian Railways is fulfilled by supply of wheels from Rail Wheel Factory/Bangalore, Rail Wheel Plant/Bela, SAIL/Durgapur Steel plant and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited(RINL)/Rae Bareli.

Only shortfall requirement of wheels is met through imports as per existing policy guidelines of Government of India.

In an effort to fully develop indigenous capacity for wheels as per Railways requirement, sufficient measures have been taken by Ministry of Railways, which are as under:

i) Contract under Long Term Agreement for supply of 80,000 forged wheels annually has been awarded in June 2023. Under this initiative, the agency has to establish forged wheels plant in India under 'Make in India'. With the initiatives taken, India is on the way to become Atmanirbhar in Forged Wheels.

ii) Under off-take agreement entered with Railways to supply 80,000 forged wheels annually, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has also set up forged wheels plant in Raebareli. This plant has been commissioned in September, 2021.
