

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1753  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025**

**CONCESSIONAL FREIGHT SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURAL ITEMS**

**1753. MS. S JOTHIMANI:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has considered/implemented any schemes to provide zero-fare/concessional freight services for transporting agricultural produce particularly for small and marginal farmers and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the current status of such schemes including Kisan Rail and whether districts like Karur, Dindigul, Tiruchirappalli and Pudukkottai known for banana, rice, turmeric, drumstick, vegetable, flowers and other perishables have been included/benefitted;**
- (c) whether the Government will introduce dedicated cold chain rail coaches/refrigerated parcel vans on key agri-routes to prevent spoilage and ensure fair market access; and**
- (d) if so, the timeline and regions identified for such cold chain services and if not, the reasons for excluding high-output districts like Karur from these logistics interventions?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (d): In order to facilitate transportation of agricultural produce of small and marginal farmers and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), the power has been delegated to Zonal Railways to reduce the composition of Parcel Rakes for transportation of mixed perishable goods traffic including fruits and vegetables up to 15 Parcel vans plus 1 SLR instead of standard composition of 20 Parcel vans plus 1 SLR. Further, Orange, Mango and Banana traffic when moved in BCN/BCNA/BCX/BCXN Rakes are charged at concessional Parcel Rates (Scale-P minus 50%).**

**Potential circuits for movement of vegetables, fruits and other perishables are identified in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Agriculture/Animal Husbandry/Fisheries Departments of State Governments as well as local bodies and agencies, Mandis etc., and Kisan Rail services are planned on the basis of demands placed taking into consideration the operational feasibility.**

**Since the launch of Kisan Rail service on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020, Railways have operated around 2,364 Kisan Rail services, transporting approximately 7.9 lakh tonnes of perishables.**

**Further, an intra-zonal parcel express train is scheduled to operate over Southern Railway between Royapuram in Chennai to Manglore Central and back w.e.f 12.12.2025 with stoppages at Salem, Erode, Uttukuli, Tiruppur, Podanur, Coimbatour, Palakkad, Shoranur, Tirur, Kozhikkode, Thalassery, Kannur and Kasargod stations. Farmers and traders from the adjacent districts can utilize the service to transport their farm produce.**

**A total of 47,236 TEUs have been moved in refrigerated containers by CONCOR carrying perishable cargo including fruits, vegetables, milk products, fish, meat and other food items. The temperature controlled storage facilities of CONCOR have been established at Nashik, New Azadpur, Dadri and Sonipat at a total investment of about Rs 129 crore.**

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