

## **PREFERENTIAL SCHEDULE**

Movement of wagon load traffic, is regulated by what is known as the Schedule of Preferential Traffic, laid down by the Central Government (Railway Board) under Section 71 OF The Railways Act,1989 and is designed to ensure that certain essential commodities and urgent movements are accorded necessary preference at a time when the available transport is not adequate to meet with all the demands.

Traffic is classified into 4 categories viz., A, B, C, and D. Commodities registered in the lower categories cannot have preference over those registered in the higher categories although the former may have been registered much earlier.

(a) This Priority Schedule is decided by Traffic Transportation Directorate of Railway Board.

(b) It lists the Sponsoring Authority and Accepting Authority for programmed traffic.

(Copy of Priority Schedule can be obtained from Indian Railways website)

## **Rationalization Order**

Under section 71 of Indian Railways Act 1989, Railway Board has been empowered to charge freight over route, which may not be the shortest between alighting point and destination. The Rationalization order indicating the route through which the freight is to be charged is issued by traffic transportation branch, Railway Board.

Revised rule 125 of IRCA Goods Tariff Part I(Volume-I) vide Board's letter no.ECR 1125/94/3 dated 6/10/94 through which it has been that directed unless there is specific instruction in writing from the center or his authorized agent to the contrary, goods will be dispatched by the route optionally feasible and freight charges will be levied by the shortest route. However, charging of freight by shortest route is subject to any instructions issued under rationalities order issued from time to time.