



In a first, Amul butter travels to Delhi via train

[Prashant Rupera](#) | TNN | Updated: Nov 12, 2017, 08:24 IST

VADODARA: Around a fortnight after home grown dairy giant Amul approached the Indian Railways (IR) on its official Twitter handle with a business proposition to use refrigerated parcel vans to transport butter across India, the first shipment from [Gujarat](#) was on its way to national capital Delhi on Saturday.

Amul on Saturday morning flagged off the first refrigerator van with 17 metric tonne of butter from Palanpur in north Gujarat to Delhi through a milk train. While Amul tweeted about this thanking @RailMinIndia for the prompt action, union railway minister Piyush Goyal too promptly responded to it by stating - "From Gujarat to Delhi, made and transported with love".

On October 23 the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation ([GCMMF](#)) - the apex marketing body of all district dairy unions in Gujarat that markets brand Amul had reached out to the railway ministry on its Twitter handle with the proposition saying: "Interested in using refrigerated parcel vans to transport Amul butter across India."

Indian Railways (IR) had promptly responded on the micro-blogging site using a popular tag line of the company.

"IR will be utterly butterly delighted to get the taste of India to every Indian," the ministry's handle @RailMinIndia had tweeted.

"Every month, we transport 10,000 metric tonnes of refrigerated products including butter, cheese, chocolate and ice-cream from Gujarat to various destinations in the country. All these products are currently transported via road. But we are exploring railway as a new mode of transport," GCMMF's managing director R S Sodhi told TOI.

Sodhi said that using railways as mode of transport will help reduce the travel time and can be cost-effective in the long run.

"For instance, a truck carrying refrigerated products reaches Guwahati on tenth day. If we use train it will reach in 36 hours," Sodhi said, adding that Amul is also in talks with IR to reduce the freight charges for transporting such products.

Currently, transporting such products via railways would cost nearly 15 to 20% more compared to road route as it has to bear the bridging cost (of loading and unloading this products).

Amul already transports a large volume of liquid milk and other dairy products like milk powder and tetrapaks to far off destinations including Agartala and [Siliguri](#) in North East, Jammu in North, Varanasi, Kanpur and Patna in [Central India](#) apart from destinations in Southern parts of the country through trains for which it pays around Rs 100 crore as annual rail freight.

For instance, around eight lakh litres per day milk is transported through a dedicated milk train with rail milk tankers (RMTs) from Palanpur to Delhi. On other routes to Kolkata and Mumbai, RMTs are attached with regular passenger/ express trains.

"But most of this is dry cargo. The refrigerated vans currently available with IR has two chambers including one that can maintain temperature between zero to four degrees celsius while another chamber where the temperature can be as low as minus 20 degree celsius," said a GCMMF official, "with this technology, we can also transport products like frozen paneer and ice-cream in future."

More news

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/120784/amul-indian-railways-collaborate/>
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/amul-boards-indian-railways-via-twitter/articleshow/61604849.cms>