

agencies through prescribed tendering procedures. For cleaning of Railway tracks, contracts have been fixed through prescribed tendering procedure by certain Zonal Railways.

(d) The licensees/contractors have to adhere to and follow the Minimum Wages Act as per labour laws.

***Statement***

*Zone-wise details of pantry cars operated by private licensees*

Railways	Number of pantry car operated by private licensees
Central	26
Eastern	14
Northern	38
North Eastern	08
Northeast Frontier	22
Southern	41
South Central	15
South Eastern	20
Western	12
East Central	16
North Western	06
South East Central	06
East Coast	22
North Central	01
South Western	16
West Central	00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>263</b>

**Rail connectivity of Gandhinagar**

2782. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gandhinagar is the only State capital served by negligible train frequency;

(b) if so, the manner in which Government intends to eliminate this discrimination;

(c) the number of trains connecting Gandhinagar with rest of the country; and

(d) whether Government intends to increase the number of trains plying to/ from Gandhinagar under the 'Rajya Rani' scheme announced in Budget 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, Gandhinagar Capital is being served by 4 pairs of trains. These include:—

(i) 19105/19106 Ahmedabad-Haridwar Mail (daily).

(ii) 12215/12216 Bandra (T)-Jaipur-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Garib Rath Express (4 days a week).

(iii) 69131/69132 Vadodara-Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar MEMU (daily)

(iv) 19309/19310 Indore-Gandhinagar Shanti Express (daily).

(d) No, Sir.

#### **Connectivity between Surat and Varanasi**

†2783. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:  
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps being taken by Railways to increase the frequency of the Tapti Ganga Express, the only train plying on Surat-Varanasi route and to fulfil the long standing demand of running a superfast train on this route; and

(b) by when Amreli would be connected to Surat by railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Proposal to increase the frequency of 12945/12946 Surat-Varanasi Tapti Ganga Express (5 days in a week) has been examined, but has not been found feasible at present.

(b) At present, there is no sanctioned project for connecting Amreli to Surat.

#### **Non-payment of dues to employees of Bikaner Division**

2784. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Group D employees of Bikaner Division of North Western Railway have not been paid their dues/salaries for the last 4-5 months;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.