

Rail connectivity of Gandhinagar

2615. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: 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, whether Government proposes to provide more trains to eliminate this discrimination;
- (c) the number of trains plying from/to or passing through capitals of each State in the country; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to increase the number of trains plying to/from or passing through Gandhinagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a), (b) and (d) No, Sir. Introduction of new train services *inter-alia* serving Gandhinagar, is an ongoing process. At present, Gandhinagar Capital is being served by 3 pairs of mail/express trains and one pair of MEMU train. Besides, a new MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) train between Anand and Gandhinagar has also been announced in Railway Budget 2012-2013.

Indian Railways do not run passenger carrying train services on State-wise/region-wise basis as railway network runs across State boundaries. However, the information in context to the question is being collected from the Zonal Railways.

Expansion of Cement Goods Yard at Thiruvalla Raiway Station Kerala

2616. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

- (a) whether Railways are expanding Cement Goods Yards (CGY) at Thiruvalla Railway Station and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether any representation has been received against the expansion and if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether High Court of Kerala and Kerala State PCB have passed orders against proposed expansion and if so, details thereof and reaction thereto;
- (d) whether Railways have done Environmental Impact Assessment of the thickly populated area around Thiruvalla, and if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether Railways have considered any other less populated location in the region to relocate CGY; and
- (f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The half rake unloading facility will

get converted to a full rake: single unloading line with direct reception and despatch of trains for traffic of all commodities, including cement.

(b) Railways have received representations both for and against the proposed arrangements for full rake Goods Shed at Tiruvalla. The Railway Residents Association/Tiruvalla, Pathanamthitta District Railway Passenger Action Council, Tiruvalla Medical Mission, etc. represented against the proposed arrangements. At the same time, Kerala State Merchants and Industrialists (Area Committee, Tiruvalla), Railway Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association (Tiruvalla unit), Labour Union and CITU Taluk Union/Tiruvalla etc represented for provision of full rake handling facilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Tiruvalla Railway station and attached goods shed is the only one station and goods shed in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala. No railway land is available nearby Tiruvalla station to develop Goods shed facility in Pathanamthitta district.

Condition of train coaches in Kerala

2617. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the passenger trains plying in Kerala run with insufficient number of coaches, resulting in crowded compartments and huge demand for reservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the long-distance trains passing through Kerala, quite a large number of old and worn out coaches are still being used;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the year-wise details of allotment of new coaches in the inter-State trains passing through Kerala during past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Railways do not run passenger trains on State/Region-wise basis as railway network run across State boundaries. However, Coaches are attached in passenger trains keeping in view the operational feasibility, commercial viability, traffic justification and availability of resources.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Only Coaches which are fit for run in all respects are attached in trains.

(e) Allotment of coaches is not done state-wise.