

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