

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1446  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003  
OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES IN ASSAM AND NORTH EAST REGION  
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number and details of the rail bridges in Assam and other States of the North East region which are too old and outdated requiring large-scale repairs, reinforcement or replacement;
- (b) whether a comprehensive plan of action has been drawn out for repairs, reinforcement or replacement of the old and dilapidated bridges endangering running of the trains; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a): Repairs, replacement of Railway bridges are decided on age-cum-condition basis and age alone is not the deciding factor. Assam and other States of the North East are served by Northeast Frontier Railway where none of the Railway bridges can be called too old or outdated. However, there are 961 Railway bridges which are more than 100 years old, out of these, 500 bridges are on Meter Gauge (MG) sections and the rest 461 bridges are on Narrow Gauge (NG) sections. Out of 500 bridges on MG sections, 432 are already sanctioned for rehabilitation/strengthening as part of the Gauge Conversion project while the rest 68 bridges are located on unimportant branch lines where the traffic volume is low. On NG section, all except one bridge are minor bridge where traffic density as well as loading standards are low and therefore these bridges do not require large scale repairs or replacement.

(b)&(c): There are no bridges on Indian Railways which can be said to be in dilapidated condition. However, there are 527 bridges categorized as distressed (as on 1.4.2002) requiring some repairs/rehabilitation, out of which 341 were targeted for rehabilitation during 2002-03 and 189 have since been completed as on 31.01.2003. Besides distressed bridges, rehabilitation/ rebuilding of bridges is also undertaken on basis of physical condition/obsolescence and when required for carrying heavier loads. As on 1.4.2002 a total of 4484 bridges were sanctioned for rehabilitation/rebuilding out of which works on 999 are targeted to be completed in 2002-03 and work has been completed on 754 bridges till 31.1.2003.