

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:400  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2006  
OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 36 per cent railway bridges in the entire country are century old;
- (b) if so, whether, keeping in view the increasing trend of rail accidents, the Government has any proposal to replace these century old bridges with new ones;
- (c) if so, the details of such bridges which have been replaced with new ones during the last two years;
- (d) the bridges which have been identified for replacement by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 400 BY S/SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO AND UDAY SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.05.2006 REGARDING OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES

(a) to (e): While it is a fact that more than 36% bridges on Indian Railway system are more than a century old but these bridges are not unsafe for train operations. Rebuilding & rehabilitation of bridges is an on going process on Indian Railways. Railway undertakes rehabilitation, strengthening & rebuilding of bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during annual inspections and not on the basis of age. Few bridges which may show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation are classified as Distressed Bridges. These, however, are neither unsafe nor dilapidated bridges. Therefore, all bridges more than 100 years old do not necessarily require rehabilitation/strengthening/rebuilding. Sometimes the bridges are strengthened due to the requirement of heavier axle loads and higher tractive effort. Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their rehabilitation/strengthening/rebuilding duly prioritizing the works as per requirement.

In 2001-02, to clear the backlog of replacement of such identified bridges on Indian Railways, 2370 bridges were sanctioned for repair/rehabilitation/rebuilding at a cost of Rs. 1530 Crore (Net) under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) to be completed in a span of 5 years i.e. from 2001-02 to 2006-07. Apart from SRSF, additional funds are also made available annually to take up the repair/rehabilitation of fresh accruals of bridge works under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF). Year wise repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges done during the Xth five year plan i.e. 2002-03 to 2006-07 is given in the Table below. Out of 2370 bridges originally sanctioned under SRSF in 2001-02, 280 were rehabilitated in 2001-02. Further 83 nos. of bridges have subsequently been dropped as detailed studies revealed that their rehabilitation could be postponed for the time being and approximately 58 bridges are now planned to be completed in 2007-08.

Year	No. of Bridges			Expenditure ( in Rs. Crores)		
	Rehabilitated	/Strengthened	/Rebuilt	SRSF	DRF	Total
2002-03	496	655	1151	151.60	47.50	199.10
2003-04	530	1033	1563	157.27	77.44	234.71
2004-05	375	1204	1579	274.26	116.00	390.26
2005-06	239	1192	1431	236.72	153.27	389.99
2006-07	309	1054	1363	403.00	191.48	594.48
	(Tar- get)	(Tar- get)	(Tar- get)	(Budget Allot- ment)	(Budget Allot- ment)	(Budget Allot- ment)