

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:253

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007

OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES

Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap;Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government has identified railway bridges in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh which are 100 years old and more;

(b): the number of bridges out of them need early replacement to avoid any untoward incident; and

(c): the steps taken to replace them in a phased manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 253 BY SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP AND SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 30.08.2007 REGARDING OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES.

(a) to (c): The life of a Railway Bridge is not based on its age but on physical condition as ascertained by inspections. Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is a nonongoing process on Indian Railways. Railway undertakes rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field. Certain Bridges which may show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation etc., are classified as Distressed Bridges. These, however, are neither unsafe nor dilapidated Bridges. Based on such identification of Bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening duly prioritizing the works as per requirement. In 2001-02, to clear the backlog of such identified Bridges on Indian Railways, 2370 Bridges were sanctioned for rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening at a cost of Rs. 1530 Crore under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). Apart from SRSF, additional funds are also made available annually in Railway Budget to undertake rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of fresh accruals of Bridge works mainly under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF).

The statistics of rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is maintained Railway Zone-wise not State-wise. During the last 5 years, a total of 6838 no. of Bridges have been rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened on all sixteen Zonal Railways. This includes 1209 no. of Bridges rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened on four Zonal Railways i.e. East Coast Railway (ECoR), South Central Railway (SCR), Southern Railway (SR) and South Western Railway (SWR) which serve the state of Andhra Pradesh also. During 2007-08, a total of 276 no. of Bridges have been targeted for rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening on four Zonal Railways which serve the state of Andhra Pradesh. The year-wise progress of Bridge Works on Indian Railways during last five years is given as under:

Year SRSF DRF

| | No. of Bridges | Expenditure (Rs. in Crore) | No. of Bridges | Expenditure (Rs. in Crore) |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Rehabilitated/Rebuilt/Repaired | | Rehabilitated/Rebuilt/Repaired | |

| | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 2001-02 | 280 | 44.10 | 445 | 63.96 |
| 2002-03 | 496 | 151.60 | 655 | 47.50 |
| 2003-04 | 530 | 157.27 | 1033 | 71.28 |
| 2004-05 | 375 | 274.26 | 1204 | 116.00 |
| 2005-16 | 239 | 248.61 | 1192 | 161.98 |
| 2006-07 | 167 | 261.20 | 947 | 215.15 |
| 2007-08 | 190 | 445.50 | 1254 | 157.10 |
| | (Target) | (Budget Allotment) | (Target) | (Budget Allotment) |

Total 2277@ 1582.54 6730 832.97

@ This excludes 84 bridges dropped subsequently and 9 bridges which would be completed in 2008-09 and including these, total no. of bridges is 2370.