

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2549  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003  
REPLACEMENT OF WOODEN SLEEPERS WITH CONCRETE SLEEPERS  
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Railways had proposed to replace all wooden sleepers by concrete sleepers during the five years period in the phased manners;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of trunk routes identified for replacement during the current financial year;
- (d) the length of routes identified for replacement, State- wise;
- (e) the details of the rail routes where replacement work of wooden sleepers have since been completed during the last three years, zone-wise; and
- (f) the expenditure incurred thereon during the above period?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): The work of replacement of sleepers is planned/executed on age cum condition basis as part of normal track renewal, which is planned on Zonal Railway basis instead of on a State basis. Concrete sleepers are being used for main lines and standard turnouts. The unserviceable wooden sleepers on bridges are replaced with steel channel sleepers or wooden sleepers depending on availability. It has been decided that wooden sleepers shall be procured for use on girder bridges and special locations only like non-standard turnouts, diamond crossing etc. for which import of 20000 cum of timber per year (approx 1.4 Lakh sleepers) has been allowed. The track renewal work done and expenditure incurred in last three years is as under:

Year	Track renewal done (Track Km)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in Cr.)
2002-2003	4776	3298 (Provisional)
2001-2002	3620	2475
2000-2001	3250	2245