

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3323
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2004
ARCHIVES OF ENGINEERING HISTORY
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has an institution which stores and maintains narratives and accounts of engineering works done earlier during British times.
- (b) if so, the details thereof; Board have already issued these instructions vide letter No.2002/CE./CT/5 dated 29.7.02
- (c) whether all such documents and narratives have been destroyed due to callousness and neglect;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, where would narratives and historical versions of the buildings of bridges over a 100 years ago be available particularly between Chennai and Howrah for reference; and
- (f) the steps proposed to properly maintain such documents for engineering knowledge?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) to (d): Do not arise.
- (e)&(f): Narratives are generally not prepared. In some of the cases books written by ex-railwaymen/private authors are available. However, drawings of bridges/buildings are prepared and mostly available in the railways. These drawings are being preserved even by digitizing them so that they can be available on floppies/compact discs to be used in computers.