

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4070

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007

OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES

Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) the total number of railway bridges in the country, Zone-wise;
- (b) the number of railway bridges, out of them are more than 100 years old, Zone-wise;
- (c) the details of accidents occurred because of these old bridges alongwith the loss of lives caused in these accidents during the last three years; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways for strengthening/rebuilding these old bridges?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4070 BY SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO, SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA, SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN AND SHRI KASHIRAM RANA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.05.2007 REGARDING OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES.

a) & (b): There are approximately 1,27,000 Railway Bridges on Indian Railway system. Out of this, about 51,000 no. of Bridges are more than 100 years old. The Zone-wise break up of these Bridges is given as under:

Railway	Total Number of Bridges (Approximate)	Number of Bridges more than 100 years old (Approximate)
Central	9700	4500
Eastern	4200	2800
East Central	5700	2000
East Coast	8800	800
Northern	15900	15600
North Central	5400	1800
North Eastern	3700	1400
Northeast	6100	1400
Frontier		
North Western	5400	1700
Southern	16200	3000
South Central	13000	4700
South Eastern	6800	2200
South East	4800	2000
Central		
South Western	6500	2800
Western	9900	2600
West Central	4900	1700
	127000	51000

(c): No accident has occurred because of old Railway bridges during the last three years on Indian Railway system.

(d): The life of a Railway Bridge is not based on its age but on physical condition as ascertained by inspections. Railways have a well laid down system of multi-tier inspection of Bridges. Railway

undertakes repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during 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. Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their repair, rehabilitation/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). Apart from SRSF, additional funds are also made available annually in Railway Budget to undertake repair/rehabilitation of fresh accruals of Bridge works under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF). Year-wise repair, rehabilitation /rebuilding of bridges since creation of SRSF is given as below:-

Year	SRSF No. of Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	DRF Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	No. of Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
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
2005-06	239	248.61	1192	161.98
2006-07	167	261.20	947	215.15
2007-08	190 (Target) Allotment)	445.50 (Budget Allotment)	1254 (Target) (Budget Allotment)	157.10