

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3854
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2010
OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES
Abdulrahman Shri

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether age norms have been laid down for Railway bridges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of old rail bridges which are more than century old and require to be strengthened and reconstructed on large scale;
- (d) whether any comprehensive plan has been prepared with regard to strengthening and reconstructing these old bridges and damaged bridges in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (e) No age norms are laid down for the railway bridges. Besides age, the performance of the bridge is affected by a large number of variables like the intensity of traffic, type of traffic, axle loads, hydrological factors, maintenance practices etc. The rebuilding/ rehabilitation/strengthening of bridges is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition and not on the basis of age. As on 1.4.2010, there are 36,335 railway bridges which are more than a century old. 3960 railway bridges are sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation/ strengthening which include bridges of all ages. A regular and rigorous system of inspection of Bridges is followed on Indian Railways. Under this system, all the Bridges are thoroughly inspected once a year by designated officials. In addition, the inspecting officials also inspect the Bridges during their routine inspections. Rebuilding/rehabilitation / strengthening of Bridges is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections. During the last five years, a total of 6435 No. of Rail Bridges have been rebuilt/ rehabilitated/strengthened on Indian Railway system.