

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:190  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012  
DISTRESSED RAIL BRIDGES  
Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

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

- (a) whether the Railways have achieved the targets set for upgradation and revival of railways bridges over the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor including the time by which the remaining targets are likely to be achieved;
- (c) the number of rail bridges which are over 100 years old in the country including the number out of it declared as distressed;
- (d) whether there is any regimental system of checking their safety aspect at regular intervals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor and the efforts made/being made by the Railways for safer travel in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 BY SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.12.2012 REGARDING DISTRESSED RAIL BRIDGES

(a) & (b): The targets fixed and actual progress achieved during the preceding three financial years are as under:

Year	Target (Number of Bridges)	Progress (Number of Bridges)
------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------

2009-10	1050	1294
2010-11	1050	1197
2011-12	967	924

There was shortfall in achieving the annual target during 2011-12. The shortfall occurred as the bridge works got delayed due to complexities involved in their execution, difficulties in availability of adequate traffic blocks, adverse weather conditions and contractual matters. Rehabilitation of bridges is a continuous process on Indian Railways and during current year (2012-13), 702 bridges have been targeted for rehabilitation, out of which 448 bridges have been completed upto October' 2012.

(c): As on 01.04.2012, there are 33,395 bridges on Indian railways, which are more than 100 years old. Out of these, 9 bridges have been declared as distressed bridges.

(d) & (e): A regular and rigorous system of inspection of railway bridges is followed on Indian Railways. Under this system all the railway bridges are thoroughly inspected once a year by designated officials. In addition, special inspection of distressed bridges at reduced periodicity is carried out by designated officials.