

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:413  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2009  
OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES  
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) the details of the century old rail bridges in the country,zone wise;
- (b) whether any shelf-life of the rail bridges has been fixed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Railways have undertaken any survey to find out the bridges requiring rehabilitation/rebuilding and strengthening treatment;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Railways to renovate such bridges which have outlived their shelf-life?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 413 BY SHRI RAKESH SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 17.12.2009 REGARDING OLD RAILWAY BRIDGES

(a) to (f): As on 1.4.09 , there are 1,30,776 bridges on Indian Railways,out of which 36,731 bridges are more than a century old. Zone wise break up of these century old bridges is as below:

Rly	Central	Eastern	East	East	Northern	North	North	Northeast
Railway	Railway	Central	Coast	Railway	Central	Eastern	Frontier	
	Railway	Railway		Railway	Railway	Railway		

No. of 3189 2496 2077 701 4850 3955 1102 861  
Bridges

Rly	North	Southern	South	South	South	South	Western	West
Western	Railway	Central	Eastern	East	Western	Railway	Central	
Railway	Railway	Railway	Central	Railway	Railway	Railway		
		Railway						

No. of 793 2929 4457 1528 1278 2054 2264 2197  
Bridges

No shelf life has been specified for the bridges. However, the physical condition of each bridge is systematically monitored by designated field officials.

Certain bridges, which show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation etc., are classified as distressed bridges. Priority is given for early rehabilitation/ rebuilding/ strengthening of such bridges. If required, suitable speed restrictions are imposed on such bridges till rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening is carried out. Sometimes the bridges are strengthened due to the requirement of heavier axle loads and higher tractive effort.

Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their rehabilitation/ strengthening/rebuilding, duly prioritizing the works as per requirement.

Number of bridges on Indian Railway which have been rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened in last five years are as below:

Year	No. of bridges
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2004-05	1579
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2005-06	1431
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2006-07	1114
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2007-08	1208
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2008-09	1388
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