

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3549
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
METRO PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether complaints have been received that metro construction activities including tunneling work have posed danger to heritage monuments and old buildings;
- (b) If so, the details thereof along with remedial steps taken/being taken to protect heritage sites;
- (c) Whether structural deficiencies/defects in designing of pillars/ alleged use of inferior quality construction material have been noticed/ reported in certain operational sections of metro in the country; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure unhindered metro operations and commuter safety?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) & (b): Chennai Metro has informed that some concerns regarding safety of old buildings & heritage sites were raised by Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) Heritage Conservation Committee and their opinions were incorporated before finalizing the designs. Further, Chennai Metro has engaged experts from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras to review the design parameters and works near heritage buildings. The Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) employed in Chennai Metro are of Earth Pressure Balance type which minimize any danger to heritage monuments and old buildings.

Bangalore Metro has informed that some minor damages to old buildings like Victoria Hospital and Indian Railway Training Centre have been reported. Necessary precautions such as constant monitoring of old buildings through instruments and manual inspection, supporting buildings during tunneling, proper design & careful construction, vacation of vulnerable buildings during construction, etc., are taken to protect the heritage sites during metro construction activities including tunneling work.

No other Metro has informed to have received any complaint in this regard. However, they have informed that they take necessary preventive measures in design and execution of such projects.

(c) & (d): Delhi Metro has informed that some defects/cracks were found in girder bearing system of Airport Metro Express Link and cantilever cross girder of Noida City Centre Metro Station. These defects have been rectified. Further, DMRC has informed that regular inspections are carried out and immediate attention is given to rectify the defects noticed so as to ensure unhindered metro operations and commuter safety.

No structural deficiencies/defects in designing of pillars/ alleged use of inferior quality construction material have been noticed/ reported in operational sections of any other metro in the country except Delhi Metro.