

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2372
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

DESILTING OF RIVER BEDS UNDER RAILWAY BRIDGES IN PUNJAB

2372. SANT BALBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to formulate some permanent policy to ensure the yearly desilting of river beds falling under the railway bridges before the onset of monsoon so that the menace of floods caused due to silting is treated forever;
- (b) how many such other low lying railway bridges are there on river beds in the country which are prone to floods;
- (c) whether Government or Railways is not having such data at present with it; and
- (d) if so, by when such data can be made available to the august House?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) To (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2372 BY SANT BALBIR SINGH ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 05.08.2022 REGARDING DESILTING OF RIVER BEDS UNDER RAILWAY BRIDGES IN PUNJAB.

(a) to (d): Safety of bridges across the country including the Railway Bridges in Punjab is accorded high priority by Indian Railways. Railways follow a well established system of inspection and monitoring of each bridge twice a year, once before the onset of monsoon and once after monsoon by the designated officials.

To ensure clearing away of obstructions in waterways on both sides of the line within Railway limits at bridges, for the full extent of the waterway prior to monsoon, requisite appropriate action is being taken as per the existing guidelines/frequency as stipulated in Indian Railways Bridge Manual-1998. Accordingly, under Railway Bridges, cleaning/desilting of waterways is being carried out every year on condition basis before the onset of monsoon. Desilting of river beds within Railway limits at bridges is a continuous process to ensure clearing away any obstructions in flow of waterway.

Since Railway Bridges are designed with the adequate vertical clearance and free board, thus, generally no low lying Railway Bridge on river beds across the country and where the incidence of flooding has occurred due to silting of river bed.

However, there is only one Bridge No. 97 (19x24.4m) Plate Girder (Meter Gauge) at km 241/0-5, in North Eastern Railway, on Sharda River between Paliakalan & Bhirakheri stations in Gonda-Mailani Section which is affected due to silting in Sharda River.
