

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2069**  
**ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023**

**SAFETY OF OLDER RAILWAY BRIDGES**

2069. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) total number of bridges on the Indian Railways Network and the number of those that are hundred years or older;
- (b) whether Railway recognises that the older Bridges may be unable to withstand higher load and speed resulting in accidents or compromise with punctuality;
- (c) if so, whether Railways has devised any protocol for inspection and maintenance for ensuring greater degree of safety/safeguards for older bridges; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

**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.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2069 BY SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 17.03.2023 REGARDING SAFETY OF OLDER RAILWAY BRIDGES**

(a) to (d): As on 01.04.2022, there are 1,56,417 number of Railway bridges on Indian Railways Network out of which 33,228 number of bridges are older than hundred years.

To withstand higher load/speed and for ensuring safety/punctuality in train operation, safety of Bridges across the country is accorded high priority by Indian Railways (IR). To ensure greater degree of safety/safeguards for older bridges, there is a well-established system of inspection of Railway bridges on IR. All the bridges are inspected twice a year by designated officials, once before the onset of monsoon and a detailed inspection after the monsoon. In addition, certain bridges are also inspected more frequently depending upon their condition as decided by Chief Bridge Engineer. Comprehensive Technical inspection of important & major bridges is done in a way that 20% of such bridges are inspected annually.

Railways follow a Numerical Rating System for assessment of physical condition of the Bridge. Every Bridge is assigned an Overall Rating Number (ORN) based on outcome of post monsoon inspection. Based on ORN of a bridge, the priority of Repair/Strengthening/Rehabilitation/Rebuilding of bridge is decided.

Repair/Strengthening/Rehabilitation/Rebuilding of bridges is a continuous & ongoing process and is undertaken based on inspections of bridges.

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