

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 24
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

SAFETY OF RAILWAY BRIDGES AND TRACKS DURING MONSOON

*24 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has drawn any plan to keep a close vigil on railway bridges and tracks with a view to maintaining foolproof safety during monsoon;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that tracks are free from waterlogging and functioning of signalling system is not affected during rains; and
- (c) the special measures being taken to intensify patrolling at all vulnerable places to ensure proper functioning of signalling system, particularly on routes having heavy traffic movements on daily basis?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING SAFETY OF RAILWAY BRIDGES AND TRACKS DURING MONSOON

(a) to (c): There is a well-established system of inspection of Railway Bridges and tracks on Indian Railways. All the Railway Bridges are inspected twice a year, once before the onset of monsoon and others after the monsoon by the designated officials. Joint inspection of Railway Affecting Works (canals, reservoirs, tanks etc.) is done with concerned State Government Authorities. On the basis of this inspection repair/ strengthening/ rehabilitation/ rebuilding of bridges is undertaken. The inspection of the Railway track is undertaken by designated officials at a specified frequency.

To keep a close vigil on railway bridges and tracks with a view to maintaining safety during Monsoon, adequate measures such as the Introduction of monsoon patrolling in identified sections, deployment of watchmen at identified vulnerable locations, special patrolling of track in case of heavy rains are taken. Close liaison is done with concerned Regional Meteorological Centres for updated weather information and with local authorities for monitoring of excess release of water from reservoirs/dams to make the field staff extra vigilant. Frequent inspections are done by officials during the monsoon to ensure the effectiveness of monsoon precautions.

Prior to the onset of monsoon, all catch water and side drains are cleared of silt, vegetation and other obstruction to have effective drainage. In station yards, cleaning of longitudinal and cross drains is ensured for effective drainage including track circuited area and during monsoon, regular cleaning of all drains is done and additional kutchra drains are provided, wherever required, to drain out rainwater expeditiously. In identified water logging areas, axle counter is provided to minimize the effect of rain on signaling system.
