

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1744
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019**

REPAIR OF OLD BRIDGES

1744. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railway bridges that collapsed in last ten years till date;**
- (b) the number of persons killed and injured separately as a result of bridge collapses;**
- (c) whether there has been a delay in sanctioning and completion of sanctioned bridge works resulting in risk of bridge collapse, if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) whether the Government has ordered a review of old bridges in need of repair, if so, the details thereof and the timeline fixed by Railways to repair all the old railway bridges across the country?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) & (b): During the last ten years, 12 Railway Bridges have been damaged due to heavy rains/floods etc. However, no person was killed / injured as a result of damage to these bridges.

(c) & (d): As on 01.04.2018, there are 1, 47, 523 Railway Bridges of varying ages on Indian Railways' network. However, the age of the bridge does not have any direct relevance on the physical condition of the bridge. There is a well established system of inspection of bridges on Indian Railways.

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All the bridges are inspected twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon. In addition, certain bridges are also inspected more frequently depending upon their condition. Repair / strengthening / rehabilitation / rebuilding of railway bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken whenever so warranted by their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections and not on the basis of age. If the corrective / remedial measures are expected to take a long duration due to the complexity of the site situation, etc., suitable safety measures like imposing speed restrictions and keeping such bridge under close watch are taken till the bridge is repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt. All bridges are safe for train movement at permitted / restricted speed.

Highest priority is accorded to the works having bearing on safety of train operations and accordingly, the works are sanctioned and executed. During last five years (2014-15 to 2018-19 upto January 2019), a total of 3753 bridges have been repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt on Indian Railways. As on 01.04.2018, a total of 4027 Railway Bridges have been sanctioned for repairing / strengthening / rehabilitation / rebuilding.
