

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3094
ANSWERED ON – 09/08/2024

CONDITION OF HOWRAH BRIDGE

3094. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय

- (a) whether the Howrah Bridge is reaching the age of 81 years and showing signs of deterioration and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure its future maintenance or potential replacement;
- (c) the current condition assessment of the Howrah Bridge in terms of structural integrity and safety standards;
- (d) whether there is any ongoing maintenance or renovation projects in place to address the aging infrastructure of the Howrah Bridge and to prolong its lifespan; and
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any feasibility studies or assessments regarding an underground tunnel connecting Kolkata and Howrah and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a & b) Yes. The Howrah bridge is the property of State Government of West Bengal and maintained by Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority (SMPA) Kolkata, an Autonomous body of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways as per Howrah Bridge Act, 1926. The Bridge is under regular periodic maintenance by SMPA and also regularly checked by internal and external experts, including organizations such as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras.

(c) The Bridge is in operative condition.

(d) Routine repair and maintenance works are carried out on regular basis throughout the year for upkeep the Bridge. The regular maintenance includes periodical inspection, cleaning, painting, restoration of corroded parts as well as maintenance of Deck Joints and other parts of the Bridge were carried out by SMPA.

(e) SMPA has undertaken feasibility studies on an underground tunnel connecting Kolkata and Howarah.
