

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4260
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026**

RAILWAY BRIDGES OLDER THAN AROUND NINETY-NINE YEARS

4260. DR. M K VISHNU PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railway bridges older than around Ninety-nine years currently operational;**
- (b) the details of such railway bridges, railway zone-wise;**
- (c) whether structural stability audits are conducted annually and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the number of bridges categorised as “distressed” or “critical”; and**
- (e) the details of proposal to phase out older bridges and construct new bridges?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) As on 01.04.2025, there are 1,68,845 Railway Bridges on Indian Railways' Network of varying ages. All Bridges are maintained in good physical condition irrespective of its age by periodic inspection & repairs.

Safety of Bridges across the country is accorded high priority by Indian Railways (IR). There is an established system of inspection of railway bridges on Indian Railways. All the railway bridges are inspected twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon. Annual Inspection of all the bridges is conducted to ascertain the physical condition of the bridge and repairs/rehabilitation /regirdering/rebuilding measures are taken up wherever required.

Detailed technical inspection of identified bridges is carried out as per specified frequency by designated officials. In addition, certain bridges are

also inspected more frequently depending upon their condition. Special technical audit is also conducted and follow up action is taken up.

Indian Railways has developed a Bridge Management System (BMS), a comprehensive digital platform for managing its entire bridge inventory. It stores detailed data on design, construction, maintenance, inspection, maintenance history and overall health of each bridge. Based on the monitoring on the portal, maintenance/rehabilitation works are carried out.

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. All bridges are safe for train movement at permitted speed. During 2014-2026 (upto Jan' 2026), 16,982 nos of railway bridges were repaired / rehabilitated/ strengthened /rebuild in Indian Railway.
