

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 835
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF OLD/DILAPIDATED RAILWAY BRIDGES

†835. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

SHRI NILESH DNYANDEV LANKE:

DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE:

SHRI BHUMARE SANDIPANRAO ASARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that serious problems have been identified in the construction and maintenance of railway bridges, tunnels, Road Overbridges and Road underbridges (ROBs/RUBs) across the country particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to install real-time monitoring and warning systems to ensure the structural safety of old and dilapidated railway bridges;**
- (c) whether the safety audits are conducted periodically and if so, the number of bridges and tunnels inspected during the last three year, year-wise; and**
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure timely repairing, the use of quality material and accountability of contractors for all the Railway infrastructure projects in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other States, State-wise?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (d): Safety of Bridges across the country is accorded high priority by Indian Railways (IR). To ensure greater degree of safety/safeguards for 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 CBE. Comprehensive Technical inspection of important & major bridges is done in a way that 20% of such bridges are inspected annually.

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

During 2022-2025 (upto Dec'2025), 8,626 nos of railway bridges have been repaired / rehabilitated/ strengthened /rebuild in Indian Railways.

In addition, certain railway 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. Special technical audit is also conducted and follow up action is taken. The inspection of Subways/RUBs is conducted before and after the onset of the monsoon. Steps has taken to reduce water-logging in Road Under Bridges (RUBs) and subways, such as improved drainage in new designs, diverting water to natural drains, providing humps and cross-drains, sealing joints, and installing high-capacity pumps at vulnerable sites.

The methodologies of bridge rehabilitation works are provided in Indian Railway Bridge Manual (IRBM). Adherence to the quality assurance plan (QAP), inspection & testing plan (ITP) is ensured through contract management and general and special conditions of contract.

The retention of security deposit till defect liability period, penal provisions like termination of contract have been incorporated for accountability of executing agency. Completion of Bridge works depends on various factors like location, type, approval of schemes, availability of approach road, duration of working season in a year due to climatic conditions, availability of blocks, imposition of speed restrictions etc.
