

[19 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

is not decided merely on basis of age but on age-cum-physical condition basis and technical consideration. Therefore, concept of average age is not used in context of Railway Bridges. As on 1.4.2002, there are 526 numbers of distressed bridges which are targeted for rehabilitation by 2005-06.

(b) No, Sir. However, replacement of girders bridges upto 6.1m spans with ballasted concrete slabs was recommended for consideration of better running quality and less maintenance required.

(c) The process of replacement, as per recommendation, is continuous activity and 11,067 number of steel girders has been replaced by RCC/ PSC slabs since 1987. Implementation of recommendation is done on age-cum-condition basis and subject to availability of funds.

Rajdhani Express for Raipur

†400. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run Rajdhani Express for Raipur during any other day of the week also, instead of the present frequency of once a week;

(b) if so, the number of days in a week this train is proposed to be run; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rail services for NJP

401. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new rail services between New Delhi and New Jalpai Guri, Kolkata and New Jalpai Guri and Mumbai and New Jalpai Guri, in view of the rush and non-availability of tickets to tourists from various parts of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.