

(c) Number of coaches and wagons manufactured during last 5 years are as under:—

Year	Coaches	Wagons(FWs)
1996-97	2168	22185
1997-98	2278	27865
1998-99	2466	25235
1999-2000	2453	15462.5
2000-2001	2256	17753

Khanna Committee Report on Railway Safety

705. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the Khanna Committee Report on Railway Safety;

(b) what is the plan of action for repairing or reconstructing a century old railway bridges; and

(c) what are the financial implications involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Action to implement accepted recommendations of Part-I of the Report of Railway Safety Review Committee-98 (Khanna Committee) has already been initiated. In order to implement one of the recommendations of Khanna Committee Report, a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs.17,000 Crores has been set up to wipe out arrears in renewal of over-aged assets within a fixed time frame of 6 years. Over-aged assets that are to be renewed also include Bridges.

Besides these, there are number of other recommendations having financial repercussions. These are being implemented progressively depending upon availability of funds and resources.

Status of technical staff in Railways

706. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that technical staff in the Railways is being completely neglected;