

**Condition of railway coaches**

461. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coaches for passenger trains are provided on the basis of number of travellers with prescribed amenities/safety benchmarks, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether condition of coaches, including sleeper class, in several express trains is far from satisfactory, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Railways to improve the condition of coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Number and type of passenger amenities in a coach are provided on the basis of their carrying capacity and class of travel viz. AC First, AC II Tier, Non AC sleeper etc. as per approved layout.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Maintenance and upkeep of coaches, including Sleeper class, is a continual requirement and this is carried out during the prescribed maintenance schedules. Besides, coaches are also subjected to a 'Mid-life' rehabilitation to restore their condition. Special drives are also launched and surprise checks are conducted to monitor the passenger amenities and safety items in coaches.

**Structural audit and strengthening of railway bridges**

462. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are large numbers of bridges/puliyas on railway lines in various parts of the country which are more than 100 years old and need urgent structural audit and strengthening;
- (b) if so, the details of such bridges/puliyas, particularly in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for improvement of such railway bridges/puliyas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The age of the bridge does not have any direct relevance on the physical condition of the bridge and the rebuilding/rehabilitation/ strengthening of bridges is undertaken whenever so warranted by physical condition and not on the basis of age. A regular and rigorous system of inspection of Bridges is followed on Indian Railways. Under this system, all the bridges are thoroughly inspected once a year. The rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening of bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections. As on 01.04.2014, 2885 railway bridges are sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening, which include bridges of all ages.

As on 01.04.2014, there are 34,328 bridges on Indian Railways, which are more than 100 years old. The information on Railway Bridges is maintained zone-wise and not State-wise. Zone-wise break up is as under:

Railway	Central Railway	Eastern Railway	East Central Railway	East Coast Railway	Northern Railway	North Central Railway	North Eastern Railway	Northeast Frontier Railway
Number of bridges more than 100 years old	3401	2886	2759	698	7302	992	893	828
Railway	North Western Railway	Southern Railway	South Central Railway	South Eastern Railway	South East Central Railway	South Western Railway	Western Railway	West Central Railway
Number of bridges more than 100 years old	364	2919	3713	1448	1288	811	2198	1828