

Repair of Railway Bridges

156. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:.

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a railway bridge, cracked in Bihar, was running on temporary support of wooden plates;

(b) if so, the reason for not repairing the bridge on a permanent basis;

(c) how many such bridges are catering the railway tracks in the country thus endangering the lives of passengers; and

(d) the steps taken to repair them and precautions taken for passengers' safety from bridges that have outlived their lives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no such bridge existing.

(b) to (d) Safety of bridges is accorded high priority on the Indian Railways. Repair, Rehabilitation and rebuilding of bridges is a continuous process. A well laid down system of multi-tier inspection of bridges is followed in the Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected thoroughly once every year as per procedure laid down in the Codes and Manuals of the Indian Railways. The repair and rehabilitation of bridges is taken up on a programmed basis. If required, suitable speed restriction is imposed on the bridges till the repairs are carried out. However, the repair and rehabilitation of the bridges under traffic may require the super structure to be supported on temporary supports of steel cribs and wooden sleepers for execution of work. The rehabilitation/rebuilding of the bridges is carried out based on the physical condition as ascertained by the inspections and not on the basis of age alone.

Setting up of a National Steel Regulatory Commission

157. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a National Steel Regulatory Commission to protect the interest of consumers;