

Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examinations etc. Besides, periodic safety drives, inspections as per laid down schedules, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Railways.

Stampede at Elphinstone bridge

137. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry had received any report/warning about the dangers involved with using the narrow Elphinstone bridge, Mumbai, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Ministry thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that just a few days after the stampede incident at Elphinstone bridge, the Ministry sanctioned construction of another bridge on that station, if so, how long did it take to sanction the new bridge and why is the process of sanctioning so long; and

(c) whether the Ministry plans to conduct safety audits of existing railway infrastructure, if so, the progress thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No warning was received for any kind of danger in using the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Elphinstone Road Railway station.

A work of construction of 12m wide FOB connecting Elphinstone Road Railway Station and Parel Railway Station was sanctioned in 2016-17. After the necessary initial planning, an agency for the work has been fixed and the work has been taken up.

A work of construction of an additional FOB connecting Elphinstone Road Railway Station and Parel Railway Station has also been entrusted to Indian Army so as to provide immediate relief to railway passengers. This work has also been taken up.

(c) Safety department of Indian Railways conducts safety audits to ensure adherence of safe working system through an Inter-Departmental Team. This entails intra-zonal audits once in two months and inter-zonal safety audits/inspections once every six months. This is a regular exercise being conducted every year, the results of which are shared with the concerned departments for improvement.