

Report Summary – 2003

Measures for making bridges earthquake-resistant

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport improves the earthquake-resistance of existing bridges to ensure the safety of transport necessary for rescue operation and supply of emergency goods in case of an earthquake. To make the emergency transport roads (roads that ensure emergency transport, which is especially important as a measure for preventing damage from an earthquake) function in case of an earthquake, it is necessary to ensure the earthquake-resistance of the network of the roads. Therefore, when developing various disaster prevention plans, the ministry mainly promotes the improvement of the earthquake-resistance of the network. According to our audit of the work for the improvement of the earthquake-resistance of the bridges for the emergency transport roads as well as the system of promoting the improvement, the ratio of overpasses whose piers and falling prevention structure have been reinforced is 38.8% (directly-controlled offices) and 38.0% (prefectures), and the ratio of such river bridges is 16.3% (directly-controlled offices) and 18.0% (prefectures). In addition, because the framework of the coordination with related agencies is inadequate, when a great earthquake occurs, some emergency transport roads may not fully perform the function for the smooth implementation of disaster prevention measures. Therefore, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport should make a concrete mid and long plan for the improvement of the earthquake-resistance of bridges in each area as well as strengthen the framework of the coordination, timely and properly grasp the progress of prefectures' improvement of the earthquake-resistance of bridges, take measures for smoothly promoting the improvement of the earthquake-resistance of the emergency transport roads according to disaster prevention plans, and improve the earthquake-resistance of bridges effectively so that the effect of the improvement will appear earlier.

(Background amount: 233,400 million yen (state expenses for the works from fiscal 1995 to 2003 for the improvement of the earthquake-resistance of bridges managed by the inspected 57 directly-control offices and 59 prefectures and municipalities))