

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding broadening of the bridge over the track in Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary at Jorhat in Assam.

SHRI TOPON KUMAR GOGOI (JORHAT): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that houses of the only ape Hoolock Gibbons that is found in India, the Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary at Jorhat in Assam is divided into two parts by the railway track.

The character of Hoolock Gibbons is that they never come down to the ground from the tree. Since Gibbons are monogamous and do not mate within family lines, the standard families in the smaller area were struggling to breed, leading to dwindling numbers. They are also suffering due to depleting food resources in their patch of forest.

A railway track has bisected the forest dividing the animals into two separate area. Three family groups of gibbons live in the smaller area roughly 150 hectares, isolated from the 23 families in the larger one, i.e., 1,950 hectares. A bridge built over the railway tracks in 2015 does not connect to the forest canopy, gibbons are not using it to cross.

I would urge strongly to the Ministry of Railways to take measures so that the narrow bridge could be built with more space (width). The whole family of Gibbons walk together to cross from one side to other and the bridge should be connected by the tree or forest canopy on both side at the end of bridge.