(a) whether the Koilwar railway bridge over the river Sone has become too old;

(b) when the said bridge was constructed and the life span thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get it renovated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The bridge was constructed between 1910 and 1920 with an expected life span of hundred years.

(c) The bridge is in sound condition. The question of its renovation does not arise.

[*English*]

Reopening of Level Crossing at Panch-Gram Station (NFR)

5371.   SHRI RABINDRA PUR-KAYASTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a railway level crossing on north side of Panchgram station under N.F. Railway;

(b) whether this level crossing has been closed by the Railway in 1989 causing sufferings to thousands of inhabitants residing on the other side;

(c) whether the Government propose to reopen the level crossing in the interest of public; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The level crossing was closed after providing a new level crossing near-by in lieu thereof, at the instance of local authorities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Railways can consider reopening of the level crossing only after a proposal therefor is sponsored by the State Government/local authority duly consenting to bear the cost thereof as per rules.

Augmentation of Kathkhal-Bairabi Railway Line

5372. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to augment the railway line from Katakhal Junction (Assam) to Bairabi (Mizoram) and to upgrade the condition of trains running on it to provide better and efficient train service on this section; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The line is adequate to meet the needs of the present level of traffic.