

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The State Government has desired construction of a road over bridge in lieu of the existing level crossing at Km. 877/7 in Visakhapatnam on the Howrah-Waltair Section. The Railways and the State Government are at present examining the issue in detail with regard to the technical feasibility of the project.

#### Repairs of Qutab Minar

**727. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that repairs of Qutab Minar were recently taken up by Archeology Department only when the extent of damage caused by decay had endangered the historical monument ; and

(b) if so, the norms, if any, laid down for the preservation of prestigious historical monuments and the periodicity of their check to know the damage caused/ being caused so as to take timely repairs to avoid danger to the structure ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) :** (a) Repairs at two spots, on the Qutab Minar were taken up recently, were mortar used in repairs carried out repair to 1947 had weathered. No damage, endangering this monument has occurred.

(b) Regular inspection of the monuments has been prescribed. Officers incharge of the circles and their engineering staff responsible for the monuments are to inspect the monuments at regular intervals during the year and take remedial measures.

#### Level Crossing Accident Near Guwahati

**728. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN  
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE  
SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :**

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of persons were

killed recently when Cachar Express rammed into a private bus at a level crossing near Guwahati ;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted into the accident and the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of unmanned railway level crossings at the beginning of 1985 (Division-wise) and how many of these have been manned (till date) as against the target ;

(d) whether any comprehensive plan has been proposed to man the remaining unmanned railway crossings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 6.10. 1985, while 201 Up Cachar Express was on run between Narangi and Panikhaiti stations on Lumding Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, it collided with a private bus No. 722 at a manned level crossing. As a result, 27 bus passengers were killed and 29 injured. A statutory inquiry has been conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, N.E. Circle, Gorakhpur into this accident. According to his findings the collision was caused due to the bus attempting to cross the said level crossing whose gates were kept wide open to road traffic in the face of approaching Cachar Express. The Gateman and Station Superintendent of Panikhaiti station have been held responsible for the accident. Orders for dismissal of Gateman under Rule 14 (ii) of Railway Servants Discipline and Appeal Rules have since been issued. Prosecution is being launched against the gateman. Disciplinary action against Station Superintendent has also been initiated.

(b) The details of unmanned level crossings on the Northeast Frontier Railway, as on 1.4.85, are as follows :

Katihar Division	: 538
Alipurduar Division	: 528
Lumding Division	: 107
Tinsukia Division	: 169
Total	<u>1342</u>