

river Khatakhat on Silchar Khatal railway line ;

(b) if so, the steps to be taken to protect this railway bridge ; and

(c) whether it is proposed to have an alternative railway bridge to avoid the present difficulty ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) to (c) It is a fact that Barak River has come close to National Highway and Railway embankment. Long term measures against possible threat to the safety of the bridge and approaches are under examination.

Broad Gauge line from Gauhati to Dibrugarh

1999. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to construct a Broad gauge line from Gauhati to Bibrugarh to connect the main district headquarters town of Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : A survey for construction of a BG rail line from Gauhati to Bibrugarh through the Brahmaputra valley, connecting various important towns in Assam, is in progress, alongwith the survey for straight conversion of the existing MG route between Gauhati Dibrugarh. A final decision to adopt the straight conversion or to provide the alternative route, will be taken after reports on both the surveys are received and examined.

Railway Bridge at Jogigopa

2000. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

SHRI NURUL ISLAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a railway bridge across the Brahmaputra at Jogighopa will be constructed soon ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) Yes.

(b) Construction of a rail-cum-road bridge across river Brahmaputra at Jogighopa alongwith a BG rail line from Jogighopa to Gauhati (141 Kms.) has been approved and included in the Railway Budget for 1983-84 at a cost of Rs. 117.34 crores, which will also be shared by the Ministry of shipping and Transport, whose share would be Rs. 29.61 crores. Necessary model studies are being carried out by the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, through M/s. RITES who have been entrusted the job of final location of the bridge and its approaches.

Closure of Establishment of DEN/Con/Dhanbad

2001. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for taking decision to wind up the Establishment of DEN/Con/Dhanbad by the Railway authorities when there is enough work existing ;

(b) whether he is aware that decision is likely to jeopardise the interest of large number of regular as well as casual staff ; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to stop the move to close down the Establishment of DEN/Con/Dhanbad ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) to (b) Almost all on-going works under District Engineer (Con.) have been completed. There is on major work on hand for execution and present work load does not justify retention of the establishment of District Engineer (Con.). It had, therefore, to be closed down. Very few staff have been affected as a result of this decision and most of them have been accommodated at Dhanbad or at other places of their choice.

Railway Users Committee Functioning in Dhanbad Division.

2002. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways users' committee is functioning in Dhanbad division ;