

**Title:** Need to expedite construction of a rail bridge over the river Ganga between Patna and Sonapur in Bihar.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): The proposal to construct a rail bridge in Bihar between Patna and Sonapur over the river Ganga has been under consideration and the Railway Ministry has undertaken the survey work. The testing by model preparation is underway at Roorkee, but the slow progress made over the years with respect to the construction of bridge over Ganga is adding to the miseries of North Bihar. There is an immediate need to clear the project and make necessary financial provisions in the next Budget (2000-2001) and transfer the complete work to the newly created Zonal Headquarter at Hazipur from administrative point of view. The construction of this bridge is also in the strategic defence interest of the country, serving not only North Bihar, but also parts of the North-East bordering China.