Title: Need to release funds for checking the erosion caused by Brahmaputra and Dihing rivers in Assam. - Laid.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): The erosion problem at Rohmaria, Bogibil, Khowang, Dirak, Sumoni, Gujjan-Dinjan of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia District by river Brahmaputra and Dihing has been continuing since 80's. The grave situation is very clearly known to the Central Government but nothing has been done so far. We have already lost tea gardens, cultivable land and big area of human habitation. Now, this has become a great threat to the historic town of Dibrugarh having Asia's one of the oldest Assam Medical College, thousands of big and small tea gardens, hundreds of villages, educational institutions, airport and above all a huge reservoir of crude oil and natural gas.

So, I urge upon the Government to urgently take up the matter and release the earlier sanctioned amount of Rs.350 crores as per Government Notification dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2002 to stop the erosion without any further delay to protect the national properties.