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Title : Need to reconsider the proposal for construction of Bogibeel Bridge under N.F. Railway as a National Project.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government about the latest decision of Union Cabinet, which rejected the proposal for considering the Bogibeel Bridge Construction under NF Railway as National Project despite positive signal of Hon'ble Prime Minister about the matter.

It is amply clear that this project, which was conceived and sanctioned 10 years back under PM's Special Initiative for the NER could not commence the actual construction due to uncertainty of assured finance and its funding as Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) as proposed by the Cabinet at this juncture will push the project to further uncertainty.

Two successive Prime Ministers Shri H.D. Devegowda and Shri A.B. Vajpayee laid the foundation stone in 1997 (North Bank) and 2002 (South Bank) respectively and provided commitment to complete the project within 5 years. It is also pertinent to reiterate that unless the BG Conversion of adjoining Rangia-Murkongselek section to connect the north Bank of Brahmaputra through the bridge is considered simultaneously as part of the national project, it will be a meaningless investment.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government once again specially the Prime Minister including Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to reconsider this combined mega project as National Project as proposed by Railway Ministry.