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Title: Regarding proposed gauge conversion project from Lumding to Badarpur.

SHRI RADHEY SHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government that the proposed mega block for gauge conversion from Lumding to Badarpur will start from October 1st 2014. So, the only option for all kinds of traffic including carriers of essential commodities will be Badarpur to Jowai via Sonapur and Badarpur to Churaibari via Karimganj NH 8. This will put heavy pressure of traffic on this damaged highway which will create various kinds of problem in that area.

Earlier it was said by the Department that the gauge conversion of the Lumding – Silchar section will be completed by March 2014, but in a newspaper, namely Samayik Prasangha it was published with the reference of the hon. Railway Minister that the gauge conversion will be completed by March 2016. This created confusion among the people because this national project has already been delayed by 16 years and further delay will cause inconvenience.

Under these circumstances, my humble request to the Government is that the mega block should be started but before that the Government has to clarify when it will be completed. If it is delayed, then the damaged road has to be repaired or the incomplete road has to be completed. Otherwise, people of Barak Valley of Assam and other States like Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur will face severe communication problem and for will face food crisis. Moreover, it will bring the area to the halt and the people of these areas will remain disconnected from the rest of the nation.

HON. CHAIRPERSON :

Kumari Sushmita Dev and

Shri Gaurav Gogoi are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Radhey Shyam Biswas.