(b) if so, the details of the works completed;

(c) the details of the works which were to be carried out for modernisation of the station;

(d) if not, the details of the works done and to be done;

(e) by when the remaining works would be completed;

(f) the reasons for non-completion of these works; and

(g) whether any action would be taken against those agencies/officers entrusted with the responsibility of completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) At Buxar Station, works for improvement of station building and platform surface, extension of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) and increase in platform length for 24 coaches have been completed.

Works for provision of 16 feet wide FOB, extension of circulating area (Phase-II) and improvement to surface of platform No. 2 and 3 are likely be completed by March, 2014.

(f) Due to non-fulfillment of the contractual obligations by the contractor, the works of extension of circulating area (Phase-II) and improvement to surface of platform No. 2 and 3 could not be completed.

(g) Due to failure of the agency, contract has been terminated and Security deposit and performance Guarantee has been forfeited, in terms of the contract agreement.

Historical railway track in Assam

1383. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first railway track of Assam Commissioned on July 16, 1883 by a British Company named ‘Assam Railways and Trading Company’ (ART), between Dibrugarh and Saikhowa, has been closed down by the North-east Frontier Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when coal mine was discovered at Ledo,
another track was laid from Makum to Ledo by the ART company joining with the Dibru-Sadiya line;

(c) the reasons why the Ministry cannot conserve the historic track for tourists; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The first railway track of Assam commissioned by ‘Assam Railways and Trading Company’ (ART), from Dibrugarh to Saikhowa, was opened in various stages during the period 1882 to 1910 and is still in existence between Dibrugarh to Dangri and is operational. However, passenger and goods traffic has been suspended on section from Dangri to Saikhowa Ghat from 1956-57 due to natural calamity.

(b) The following tracks were laid down from Makum to Ledo:—

(i) Dihing Bridge to Ledo — opened on 17.02.1884; and

(ii) Makum Jn. to Dihing Bridge — opened on 02.05.1884.

(c) The Railway track from Dibrugarh to Dangri (near Saikhowa Ghat) and from Makum Jn. to Ledo is still in existence and also operational.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of wagon factory at Cherthala, Kerala

1384. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of progress made, so far, towards setting up of wagon factory at Cherthala, Kerala;

(b) the steps being taken by Railways in this regard; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilized thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Railways has requested Government of Kerala (GoK) for encumbrance free land for the factory. Availability of suitable land for the wagon factory is in the process of being confirmed by GoK.