

Brahmaputra Board's steps fail to protect Majuli

A CORRESPONDENT

KAMALABARI, March 11—Majuli, the largest inhabited island is in a very dangerous position now. Brahmaputra Board, the central agency has totally failed to protect the island. The erosion started in Majuli after the great earthquake in 1950, when the size of the island was 1256 sq km. Gradually erosion become a big disaster for the island and for the people.

In 2004 the whole responsibility was given to the Brahmaputra Board to save and protect the island from flood and erosion. The Central government has already released Rs 186 crore for their project

which has been almost completed. But there has been no improvement in checking either erosion or flood. At the same time Majuli's area has reduced to 480 sq km. 9854 families have lost their land and properties and are now living on the embankment or along the PWD roads. Brahmaputra Board had declared that they will complete 8 bolder spar in river bank for permanent protection of the island within 2012, March. But even 30% of the work has not been completed till today. They have just started only five bolder spar work.

The island which is known as the Vatican of Vaishnav culture, is losing its basis due to natural ravages. There were

65 satras earlier and now only 32 remain. Most of them have already shifted out of the island due to erosion. This erosion problem has become more dangerous in Bengena ati satra and Bhogpur Satra. But no measures have been taken by the Board to protect these satras.

Just a month is remains for the monsoon season to begin. So, both of these satra's Sattradhikars Bhabananda Dev Goswami and Duttadev Goswami have demanded to take proper measures to save the satra as soon as possible, otherwise they threatened to launch will launch a strike against the Brahmaputra Board.