

## Tales from Jiadhal



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Manas Jyoti Chutia 22 November 2015 14023 views

The flood ravaged people living on the bank of River [Jiadhal](#) have dissented the alignment of [Jiadhal](#) embankment proposed by the Water Resource Department, Dhemaji.

The ambitious plan with an estimate of Rs. 515 crore aims to set up a new embankment from the foothills of [Arunachal](#) Pradesh to Gurathali Chapori.

[Jiadhah](#) Nadi Baan Pratirudhi Aikya Mancha, a [community](#) organization of [Jiadhah](#) basin has expressed its apprehension [over](#) the alignment of the proposal. The disturbance accelerated when a news report in a leading [Assamese](#) daily informed of Sumitra Doley Patir's patronage to the disputed alignment.

The [community](#) organization has repudiated the proposal titled "Flood and Erosion Protection Measure; [Jiadhah](#) Basin from Foothill to Gurathali Chapori (review)".

Dhemaji WRD has a long history of using [Jiadhah](#) river [as](#) a treasure box. In 1983-84, a sum of Rs 38,28,000 was sanctioned for 5 km extension of an existing embankment on [Jiadhah](#) basin in phase one and in the following years, Rs 49,84,200 was sanctioned for a 4.965 km extension in its second phase. The sanctioned [grant](#) for second phase was totally vaporized producing fake bills, and the extended embankment existed only in paper.

In 2006-07, the Chief Minister inaugurated the same embankment which was now newly extended to 9.5 km using 15 crores granted from North Eastern Council.

The Dhemaji WRD and the assigned contractors made excuses of non-payment of advance sum and no stone spur was installed, leaving the embankment exposed to flood. Consequently, a one km portion of the embankment was washed away in the same year. Flood water of [Jiadhal](#) flowing through this breached portion spelled disasters in the villages of [Jiadhal](#), Chamarajan and Pachim Dhemaji panchayats in the following years.

Later, an estimate of Rupees five crore was prepared to repair 400m portion of the embankment breached in 22/08/14 near Barman Gaon. The target was to divert the course of the river through channel cutting and installing coffer dam. A sum of one crore was misused in the project, the coffer dam remained incomplete and above all, it failed to regulate the swelling water. No work under different sections of this scheme has been completed till date. [As](#) a [follow](#) up, a plan of Rs80 lakhs was prepared for maintenance and repairing of this section during monsoon. 105 nos of [bamboo](#) porcupine were installed under this scheme.

The [community](#) protested [over](#) the channel cutting work and the location of coffer dam when Sumitra Doley Patir, the Dhemaji MLA came to inaugurate the half completed project on 15/03/15. The [community leaders](#) were invited to the circuit house to discuss [over](#) the issue. Later, the MLA informed the [community leaders](#) of handing [over](#) the responsibility of this dialogue to the Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji. JNBPAM decried that people will not forget this deception and will answer the MLA in the next coming election.

The [community](#) has demanded to effectively repair the portion of the existing embankment breached in 2007 instead of setting up the much debated new embankment.

The proposed new embankment, if installed, will make 300 families of 9 villages from [2](#) panchayats vulnerable to flood havoc. This embankment will change the course of the river, and the river will directly hit the exposed villages like Tengapur, Nepali Khuti, Kopahtoli, [Changmai](#) Doloni and Garubondha.

\* [Flood early warning system installation by ICIMOD](#)

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