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Title: Need to make railway siding yard at Jalpaiguri operational with a view to safeguard the interest of workers engaged in unloading foodgrains at Jalpaiguri Railway Station.- Laid.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Traffic department of Northern Frontier Railway, Maligaon has decided to make the siding yard at Jalpaiguri town Railway Station inoperative for reasons best known to them. It is also reported that they have stopped booking of FCI foodgrain w.e.f. 31st March, 2005 without consulting the District Administration of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, though unloading of FCI foodgrains at this railway siding has been operating smoothly since long. Foodgrains for schemes like SGRY. Cooked Mid Day meal, Antodaya Anna Yojana, BPL rice/wheat are meant to cater to the needs of large number of ST & SC population. Recently Government of India has sanctioned a scheme known AGPLM for Jalpaiguri district. The requirement of foodgrains to be lifted at Jalpaiguri town to implement the above noted scheme including the PDS is approximately 1,10,000 MT of foodgrains per annum.

Moreover about 500 people and their families will face utter financial crisis with the loss of about 2000 mandays annually. Closure of foodgrains operation directly affect adversely on the persons engaged like transport owners/transport workers in particular and also effect the economic and social life of the common people. Some minor problems can be sorted out easily for the benefit of the common people.

I urge upon the Government to look into the matter so that decision to make railway siding at Jalpaiguri inoperative is revoked in the interest of public.