

Title: Need to lay broad gauge railway line between New Mainaguri and Jogikhopa via Baxirhat, Galakganj, Gouripur Dhubari and Belasipara, West Bengal.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Sir, the proposed construction of alternative broad gauge rail route from New Mainaguri to Jogikhopa via Baxirhat, Galakganj, Gouripur Dhubari, Belasipara project is almost life line of the people of the adjacent area. The people of the area are waiting for a long time and have reached the limit of their patience and have now become restive.

Recently, on 28.3.99, about 40,000 people assembled at Chagolia in a mass rally to raise their voice for immediate taking up of the project.

You are well aware that the area through which the proposed rail route traverses is laden with hard atmosphere of extremist groups. The situation may be out of hand, if the project is not started immediately.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into the matter and to start the project. If it could be started, the economic condition of the area would be abruptly changed and the essential movement by the ultra extremists would automatically come down.

Alternative route through the above area is therefore very important.