

Title: Need to withdraw restriction on piecemeal booking of gunny bags from Tezpur Railway Station by Assam Cooperative Jute Mills Limited.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): I would like to inform you that the Assam Co-operative Jute Mills Limited is the only composite Jute Industry in the State of Assam. This Jute Mill was rehabilitated by the financial assistance from the Central Government under the terms of the Assam Accord. Out of the few State Level Public Enterprises, which are earning profit at present, this Jute Mill is one of them.

You are well aware that the industrial backwardness of the North-Eastern Region and the problems of marketing the products due to transportation bottleneck. This mill is dependent on the Central Government requisition orders of gunny bags under Essential Commodities Act.

The gunny bags are dispatched through rails from Tezpur Railway Station to different destination since last 10 years in piecemeal booking system, but from the last February, 2005, the Railway Board, New Delhi has imposed the restriction on piecemeal booking of gunny bags.

The co-operative mill is providing employment opportunity to about 1000 local people. On the other hand, the local raw jute growers are also dependent on this mill to sell their raw jute produce. But, this restriction has come as a deathblow and my campel to close the shutter of this jute industry, as the mill has no other economically viable alternative to dispatch the gunny bags.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to immediately take up the matter for finding a solution to the unemployment problem of the State.

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