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Title: Need to provide financial support to Odisha Hydro Power Corporation by relaxing existing norms of National Clean Energy Fund-laid.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The Union Government has been collecting a Central Cess on coal towards 'National Clean Energy Fund' (NCEF) meant to be used for research and development of Clean Energy Technology. In the Union Budget for 2016-17 'Clean Environment Cess' had been increased from Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 per MT of coal. Resultant, the Union Government has collected Rs. 6400 crore from Odisha in 2016-17 without any benefit to the host State. The coal rich States like Odisha have been contributing to the enrichment of the said Fund while the benefits are largely being given to other States. The said Fund is mainly used for generation of Solar Energy and the existing policy considers small hydro power stations upto 25 MW only as Renewable Source of Energy and others as Conventional Sources of Energy. Odisha Hydro Power Corporation has been planning to set up three hydro power plants with total capacity of 1320 MW at Upper Indravati, Balimela and Upper Kolab at a cost of Rs. 3950 crore to address peak power requirement in the State. The Government of Odisha has, therefore, requested the Union Government to provide financial support from the NCE Fund by relaxing the existing policy keeping in view that hydro power is a clean source

of energy. However, no response has been received from the Union Government so far. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to provide financial support to the said projects of OHPC considering that Odisha is one of the major contributors to NCEF.