

Title: Need for early commissioning of Super Thermal Power Project at Nabinagar, Bihar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Sir, the Bihar Government, in 1989, had announced that a Super Thermal Power Project of 2,200 MW at a cost of Rs. 8,000 crore would be set up at Nabinagar in Aurangabad in Bihar. But there was no progress in it until 1999, when it was revived, put on the fast track, and included in the current five-year plan. Essential formalities needed to prepare the feasibility report were completed. Power purchase agreements should have been negotiated at that stage, but before it could be done, the Railways entered the scene and in a bid to hijack the project offered to finance the project with 51 per cent equity. In return, however, the Railways also stipulated that it would consume all the power produced by the project by itself. It meant that Bihar would be denied any share in it. The Railways, then, hurriedly organised its foundation-stone laying ceremony after the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was dissolved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nikhil Kumar, the rules with regard to Rule 377 state that the hon. Members have to confine themselves to the text, which is approved. I am saying this because only the approved text goes on record. Therefore, please confine to that only.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Okay, Sir, I will do it. It is now learnt that the project does not, till date, have the necessary approval of the Union Cabinet.

The need of the hour is to commission this project at the earliest to improve the grim power situation in Bihar. The hon. Power Minister is requested to kindly accord the necessary approval and ensure that work on its construction begins without further delay, and that Bihar is given its due share.