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Title: *h Need to clear the proposal of the Government of West Bengal for setting up of Durgaduani Mini Tidal Power Plant in Sunderbans area. – Laid.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, The Government of West Bengal had submitted a detailed project report for the Durgaduani Mini tidal power plant in the year 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 crore, to provide electric power supply to the remote but well populated islands of Sunderbans. Though Planning Commission has already approved for 90% subsidy, it is still pending with Central Government. Further no action has been taken so far to provide financial assistance for this project.

Because of inadequacy of the existing local solutions to provide electricity, the people as well as tourists who visit Sunderbans face difficulties. This Project would not affect the fragile eco-system of the region. Tidal power is abundantly available in the area which can be harnessed for the generation of electricity.

Sunderbans is the largest delta/mangrove forests of the planet which deserves the full attention of the Government. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide financial assistance so as to expedite this project to benefit this backward area.
