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Title: Need to set up a Green field IT in Orissa.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of HRD to the following matter:

The Govt. of India has now proposed to establish three Greenfield IITs Under the Eleventh Five Year Plan in three States. Earlier, Orissa was included in this proposal which was also announced by hon. Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development, Shri M.A.A. Fatmi on 28 August, 2006 at Patna. However, recent news reports states that the Greenfield IITs will be set up in other three States. Surprisingly, Orissa has been excluded.

Previously, the Governing Body of IIT Kharagpur had approved a full fledged campus in Bhubaneswar by upgrading its existing extension center, by spending Rs.800 to Rs. 900 crore. The proposal is awaiting the clearance of the Ministry of HRD. The State Govt. has offered 300 acres of land free of cost for this project.

Hon. Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik had written to the hon. Prime Minister for considering Orissa as the location of one of the Greenfield IITs and for expediting the Ministry of HRD's sanction to branch campus of IIT Kharagpur.

At present, rapid industrial growth and boom of Foreign Direct Investment are taking place in Orissa. In this context it is needless to mention that many of the existing and upcoming industries would be able to take the benefit of the presence of an IIT to boost Research and Development activities.

Sir, Orissa lies at the bottom of per capita funding through the Ministry of Human Resource Development which is not at all justified. The establishment of a Greenfield IIT in Orissa along with full branch of IIT Kharagpur shall help in improving this unbalanced position.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government. to take urgent necessary action in the matter.

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