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Title: Need to expedite the establishment of Thermal Power Project at Nabinagar in Aurangabad, Bihar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Bihar is deficient in power. To help meet its assessed demand the State Government had in 1989 conceived of a 2200 MW thermal power project that was to be established at Nabinagar in Aurangabad. After this project lay dormant for ten years, efforts to revive it began during the Fourteenth Lok Sabha in 1999. Studies established its feasibility. The Ministry of Railways intervened and offered to build the project. But the Power Ministry opposed it claiming that building such a project was its legitimate responsibility. This dispute unnecessarily held up the project.

Seventeen years after it was conceptualized, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, after fully considering it in its meeting on 2nd February this year, accorded its mandatory approval to build a 1000 MW power project, consisting of four units each of 250 MW, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,350 crores over a 1600 acre area in Nabinagar. 600 acres have been acquired and the remainder is to be acquired by 2007 end. This is a huge achievement for the state and is a national asset. As according to the time schedule fixed by the NTPC, work is to be completed by April 2012, it should have by now established its administrative headquarters at the project site in Aurangabad and commenced work on the project to be able to adhere to the time frame.

But in over three months the NTPC has made no visible progress. This delay should not have occurred. The Ministry of Power may please ensure there is no further delay in the commencement of work on this valuable project.

*Treated as laid on the Table.