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Title: Need to review the setting up of proposed coal based Ultra Mega Power Project at Niddodi in Karnataka.

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the protest of people of coastal Karnataka against the proposed Ultra Mega Power Project at Niddodi in Mangalore. The Union Government has proposed to set up a coal based Ultra Mega Power Project in the coastal district of Karnataka but local communities have expressed concerns over the likely adverse impact on the livelihood of farmers, environment and ecology of Niddodi and its surrounding area. People of Niddodi are dependant entirely on agriculture and setting up of Ultra Mega Power project there would lead to their eviction from their own agriculture land and would thus have a n adverse impact on their livelihood. There are earlier instances like UPCL in Udupi which affected the livelihood of large number of local families. People of Niddodi and from entire coastal region are demonstrating against the Ultra Mega Power Project. Hence I would like to urge upon the Government to understand the concerns expressed by the people and respect their sentiments and take immediate steps to stop the proposed Ultra Mega Power Project at Niddodi in Karnataka. The coastal district is surrounded by the western ghats and the proposed Ultra Mega Power Project is likely to cause an adverse impact on the bio-diversity of the western ghat also.

The Union Government should send a team to understand the concerns and views of the local people before taking any decision about the power project.