

Title: Need to clear proposal of State Government of Orissa for setting up Pipalpanka Reservoir Project on the river Rushikulya in Gunjam district. -Laid

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the urgent need of implementing the Pipalpanka reservoir project on the river Rushikulya in the Ganjam district of Orissa. The execution of this project is very necessary to meet the need of water for the Integrated Steel Plant which is being set up on the Gopalpur Coast in Ganjam in that State. The Steel Plant being set up by Tata Steel will need 60 million gallons of water per day. This requirement of water for the plant is designed to be met by the proposed Pipalpanka reservoir project.

The site for the Pipalpanka reservoir project has been selected after considering the techno-economic feasibility of a number of alternative options including desalination of the sea water and location of the dam at other sites. The proposal has been pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for clearance.

On execution of the Pipalpanka project only four per cent of the forest land of the area would be submerged. It will not have any adverse impact on the flora and fauna of the region. Moreover, 1178 hectares have been identified in the nearby Gajapati district for compensatory afforestation.

Besides generating employment to the local youths, the plant will earn valuable foreign exchange and meet the growing demand of steel once it starts commercial production. As such, I demand that the Pipalpanka Project in the Ganjam district of Orissa be accorded forest clearance at the earliest.