

Regarding need to revive the Durgapur Industrial Hub in West Bengal-Laid

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (BARDHAMAN-DURGAPUR): The revival of the Durgapur industrial hub is not just a matter of economic necessity but a critical step towards restoring the region's historical significance and providing much needed employment opportunities. Once a thriving center for industries like jute, automobiles, and metals, Durgapur has seen a significant decline in its industrial activities, affecting the livelihoods of thousands of workers. The industrial area's estimated investments worth over Rs. 1,000 crores are now the hub of decay and abandonment, with vast portions of these once valuable assets surrounded by wilderness. The reduction in workforce and the closure of numerous factories, like Corporate Ispat Alloys, Bharath Ophthalmic Glass Ltd, HFCL, Hindustan Cables Ltd., and Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd, highlights the intensity of the matter. The area's past success in supplying crucial materials, even during times of national need like the Kargil War, demonstrate its strategic importance. The Central Government should revitalize the area and restore it to its role as a key driver of industrialization and a major hub for employment generation. I urge upon the Central Government to revive this industrial area, ideal for brownfield projects due to its existing infrastructure, including buildings, coal, power, water, and railway access through a well-planned and strategic approach.