

Regarding need for revival of proposed NTPC Thermal Power Plant at Katwa, West Bengal for productive utilization of acquired land-Laid

DR. SHARMILA SARKAR (BARDHAMAN PURBA): The West Bengal Government handed over nearly 850 hectares of land in Katwa to NTPC for the setting up of two 660 MW super thermal power units and 100 acres of Government land was allotted free of cost. Land was acquired from nearly 4,000 farmers across Sreekhand, Debkundu, Koshigram and Churpuny mouzas of Katwa- I Block. There has never been any shortage of coal, water or transport facilities. The State Government even ensured coal supply through ECL and Panchami. Yet, for 14 years, the NTPC has left the entire site unused. The land is fenced with boundary walls and barbed wire, but lies abandoned, overgrown with weeds and turning into a wasteland. If the NTPC had no intention of setting up the project, it was not necessary to acquire and fence off such vast fertile land. Local farmers have been deprived for years, watching their livelihood turn into a wasteland. The people of Katwa urgently seek either the projects revival or the return of their land. I request the Power Minister to intervene at the earliest.