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Title: Need to protect the environment from harmful effects on account of setting up of Super Thermal Power Plant of NTPC at Lara on the Chhattisgarh-Odisha Border.

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DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): The Super Thermal Power Plant (STPP) being set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) at Lara on the Chhattisgarh–Odisha border will have a devastating impact on the Mahanadi river, local ecology and people's livelihood such as farming and fishery in at least six gram panchayats in Jharsuguda district which is a part of my constituency. Besides the pollution from the plant, the Fly Ash from the plant located at a small distance from villages in Odisha is a matter of concern. Pollution caused by the plant as well as its ash pond will impact the river Mahanadi and its tributary river Kelo badly.

The plant Authority/Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change did not conduct the mandatory public hearing in Odisha despite clear evidence that the plant will impact villagers, ecology and the Mahanadi River in Odisha. By not conducting public hearing in Odisha, the NTPC Lara plant has clearly and openly violated the EIA Notification 2006 which states "a public hearing at the site or in its close proximity district wise, to be carried out in the manner prescribed in Appendix IV, for ascertaining concerns of local affected persons " and "obtain responses in writing from other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity". I would request the Minister of Power to give the reasons for not conducting public hearing in the affected villages of Odisha. I would like to ask the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to furnish reason for giving clearance for the construction of the plant without obtaining the opinion of the affected people of Odisha through public hearing.