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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Odisha from National Clean Energy Fund for promotion of renewable energy in the state.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): Thank you, hon. Speaker, Madam. I am drawing the attention of the Government regarding the Pump Storage Scheme of the Odisha State to be funded by the National Clean Energy Fund.

The Centre has been collecting a Central cess on coal towards the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) to be used for research and development of clean energy technology. It is learnt that in the Union Budget for the financial year 2016-17, Clean Environment Cess has been increased to Rs.400 per MT of coal from the existing Rs.200 per MT of coal which will result in collection of about Rs.6,400 crore from about 160 MT of coal to be produced during the financial year 2016-17 in Odisha, without any commensurate benefit to the host State. Coal rich States including Odisha have been contributing to enrichment of NCEF funds. The beneficiaries have generally been the western States where NCER corpus has been used to facilitate generation of solar energy in a big way.

While Odisha welcomes contributing for such a national cause towards generation of renewable energy, our greatest worry is that Odisha as well as other coal rich States are not being given any assistance from NCEF fund to such States that are major contributors. Odisha has a long list of various projects, which are in urgent need of funds, for the promotion of renewable energy. This requires huge funds which the State cannot afford to deal with.

OHPC is currently planning to establish 600 MW pump storage hydro power plant at Upper Indravati HEP at the project cost of Rs.1,600 crore to address the peak power requirement in the State. WAPCOS has been entrusted to prepare the DPR. Upper Kolab and Balimela major dams are also suitable for the Pump Storage Scheme.

With financial support from the Centre, Odisha would provide itself as one of the promising States for renewable energy as pump storage hydro power will be considered as green energy, which will be largely helpful in mitigating the peak hour demand.

Hence I would request and impress upon the Minister of Power to sanction the above required fund for promotion of the renewable energy and to address the peak power requirement in the State. I would also request the Minister to give all financial support for implementing the storage hydro power plant by OHPC.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Nagendra Kumr Pradhan.