

request the Government that necessary funds should be provided to the Bihar Government for developing Deogarh as a huge tourist resort and for establishing some good hotels and yatri Niwas.

[English]

- (ii) **Demand for clearance to the Thermal Power Project at Bakreswar in Birbhum district of west Bengal**

14.26 Hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the chair*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) With a view to set up a 630 MW Thermal Power Project at Bakreswar in the district of Birbhum to augment the generation of electricity in the State, the Government of India which received Techno-Economic clearance from Central Electricity Authority in May 1985.

Thereafter the State Government, on the advice of the Central Government, sought foreign assistance to set up this major project. Ultimately two proposals for turn-key execution of the project comprising supplies and funding, one submitted by USSR-INDIA consortium and another by UAS-Japan Consortium were concretised and the State Government's recommendation was furnished to the Central Government in April, 1986 for early clearance of the Project. During his visit to Calcutta in September, 1986, the Prime Minister gave an assurance to issue the clearance within two months. But the same is yet to materialise. Thereafter, several rounds of discussions have been reportedly held by the Central Government with USSR-INDIA Consortium culminating in final revised proposal furnished to the Central Government in March, 1987. But the Central Government is yet to take a decision, despite several follow-up rounds of clarifications and in spite of re-

peated representations from the Government of West Bengal. The Project site has already been identified with excellent infrastructure, power evacuation facilities and satisfactory rail and coal linkages.

In order to meet the power demand in the State during the Eighth, it is essential to start the Project without any further loss of time and also cost over-runs.

In the circumstances, I earnestly request the Government to give its immediate clearance to the Project together with proper clearance of financial assistance required for the due execution thereof.

- (iii) **Demand for an early decision on the system of commission in Haldia**

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): It is more than ten months since Government of India stopped all commissioning activities in Haldia Fertilizer complex. Selection of an agency to conduct the actual survey, submission of report and decision thereon is likely to take more than a year which means the plant will be kept idle for more than two years.

The 2000 strong work force are already demoralised as the commissioning activities have stopped and this prolonged stoppage is bound to cause damage to the machinery and equipment worth Rs. 500 crores which will be beyond repair or subsequent revival.

The Government cannot afford to close down this public sector undertaking because of the adverse socio-political economic effect it will have and has to take the decision to revamp this complex immediately. The time is most vital in this case and any further delay will be suicidal for this complex.

Under the circumstances, I request the Government to settle the issue without further delay.