

**Need for underground cabling in coastal districts of Odisha in the
aftermath of cyclone**

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Energy Minister. After the cyclone hit Odisha severely, the power infrastructure of Puri and 13 other districts have been completely destroyed. The transmission and the distribution companies are not in a position to finance these restoration works. As you know, Sir, electricity is the basic necessity. The State Government has undertaken restoration of power infrastructure on a war-footing from its own resources. However, the scale of damage to power infrastructure is far too expensive to be taken care of by the State Government alone.

Sir, the sanctioned cost of IPDS project for Odisha is ₹ 1,077.84 crores. Out of this, the share of the Government of India is ₹ 646.70 crores and the share of the Government of Odisha is ₹ 431.14 crores.

For underground cabling, a proposal for 381.51 kms, with an estimated cost of ₹ 161.76 crores, was submitted. But, sanction was made only for ₹ 58.71 kms with an estimated cost of ₹ 27.48 crores. Underground cabling fund proposal was diverted for other work.

For cyclone resilient distribution network in Bhubaneswar district headquarters of coastal districts, such as Cuttack, Puri, Berhampur, Chhatrapur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore towns about ₹ 10,000 crores is required in the first stage. This investment will also help in reducing AT & C losses and add beautification of towns.

Since there is every possibility of severe cyclones hitting very frequently in future, due to global warming, there will be a lot of expenditure in damage and restoration works. Hence, such one-time investment in cyclone resilient system is justified. Sir, the Government of India is now thinking of replacing bare conductors by AB cable.

I urge the Ministry of Power, Government of India, for replacement of bare conductors by UG cables instead of AB cable in the towns of coastal belt of the State.

SHRI AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Prashanta Nanda.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission of Shri Prashanta Nanda.