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THIS STORY IS FROM JANUARY 7, 2011

NTPC project faces land hurdle
English | [9adgetsNow \(https://www.9adgetsnow.com/\)](https://www.9adgetsnow.com/)

[Pranava K Chaudhary \(https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011/01/07/0450-IST\)](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011/01/07/0450-IST) | TNM | Jan 7, 2011, 04:50 IST



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PATNA: The much publicised coal-based thermal power plant (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Nabinagar-in-Bihar's-Aurangabad-district (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Nabinagar-in-Bihar's-Aurangabad-district), which is supposed to have 3 units of 660 MW each in the first phase, is hanging fire due to inordinate delay in land acquisition. Till date not a single acre of land has been handed over to the NTPC.

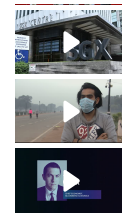
In total, 2,800 acres of land is required for setting up the power plant. "We have acquired 1,871 acres on paper only", said an official of Nabinagar Power Generating Company (NPGC), a joint venture company of the NTPC and BSEB formed to execute the project in 50:50 partnership..

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"If total land is not physically handed over to the Nabinagar super thermal power project (NSTPP) by January end, this project is likely to face a rough weather," said an official.

Other than the Nabinagar project, NTPC has planned four power projects across the country, each having two units of 660 MW. All these projects are crucial for the company to achieve its target of having a generation capacity of 75,000 MW by 2017. Today NTPC generates nearly 33,000 MW of power in the country.

NTPC has made a commitment to the Union government for completing these projects within a stipulated time period, for which it has resorted to bulk tendering. Besides Nabinagar, these projects are to come up at Mauda and Sholapur (both in Maharashtra), Meja (UP) and in tie-up with Damodar Valley Corporation.

Interestingly, except for the Nabinagar project in Bihar, land acquisition process has been completed for the other four projects and site levelling work is likely to begin soon. Despite CM Nitish Kumar's repeated directives to the DM concerned, the physical handing over of land is yet to begin.

A couple of days back, the farmers facing displacement due to Nabinagar project in a joint petition to the CM demanded that the quality of their land, which yields three crops, be assessed. The secretary of 'Visthaapit Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Samiti,' Nabinagar, Arvind Kumar Singh said the present NDA government had promised not to set up any plant on fertile land. "Even land reforms commissioner Chandragupta Ashok Vardhan had made a proposal against setting up industrial project on fertile land, but attempts are on to forcibly take over our fertile land", the letter said.

The letter also said that middlemen were dictating terms in the sale and purchase of land. The price of land should be fixed in accordance with the market value. As per the rules, NTPC management normally pays Rs 5.50 lakh - Rs 7 lakh per acre for setting up power plants.

On Wednesday, power purchase agreement (PPA) for Nabinagar super thermal power project (NSTPP) expansion (2X660 MW, stage-II) was signed here between NPGC and Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB).

The stage II would be commissioned by 2017-18 at an estimated cost of Rs 9,000 crore. The initial cost of the project (phase-I) has been estimated at Rs 13,000 crore.

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