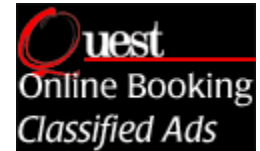




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[Orissa Plus]

HC stays shifting of NIS

Statesman News Service

CUTTACK, Nov. 8. — The controversy over the alleged decision of the UPA government at the Centre to shift the proposed National Institute of Science (NIS) from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata took a new turn today with the Orissa High Court issuing an injunction on any such move.

The controversy had sparked off with the filing of a public interest petition by the Orissa State Public Interest Protection Council President Mr Prasant Das following reports about a scheduled foundation stone laying of the NIS for the Eastern Zone in Kolkata on 31 October by Prime Minister Mr Manmohan Singh.

Though no foundation stone was laid as scheduled, the Orissa High Court admitted the petition and registered it as a PIL.

The Division Bench comprising of Chief Justice Mr SB Roy and Mr Justice MM Das in its interim order directed the Union government “to stay the shifting of the proposed science institution from Bhubaneswar to any other part of eastern India. The Court further directed the University Grants Commission and the state government to file counter affidavits within four weeks.

The state government in a letter to the High Court had stated that in 2003 when the NDA government was in power the NIS for the Eastern Zone was allotted for Bhubaneswar on the recommendations of the University Grants Commission. Accordingly, the state government had since earmarked 75 acres of land adjacent to the Utkal University in Bhubaneswar.

The letter said neither the University Grants Commission nor the Union ministry of science and technology had followed up with subsequent communication on it.

Though the state government had contacted the ministry in different occasions it was yet to receive any clear



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communication either on shifting or establishment of the NIS in Bhubaneswar.

The petitioner counsel Mr Madhusudan Panda had sought judicial intervention alleging mala fide intention and political considerations behind the move to shift the proposed NIS from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata.

Discussion on this Orissa Plus item

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No discussions on this item

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