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### NIS issue: New committee to be formed

Thursday November 24 2005 10:16 IST

BHUBANESWAR: The Assembly on Wednesday decided to constitute a committee under the chairmanship of Speaker Maheswar Mohanty to take up the issue of the National Institute of Science (NIS), location of which was shifted to Kolkata by the Centre.

Acceding to the demand of several ruling BJD and BJP members for a house committee, deputy speaker Prahallad Dora directed the Government Chief Whip Kishore Mohanty to take necessary steps for constitution of the committee.

While appreciating the concern of the members over shifting of the proposed NIS from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata, Dora said the committee should take up the issue with Centre.

"In my opinion, the same Assembly committee on Railway headed by Speaker Maheswar Mohanty should take up the matter with the Centre," Dora said. Favouring a separate house committee under the chairmanship of the Speaker, the Government Chief Whip said the size of the committee will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

Replying to a calling attention motion moved by three BJD legislators Aswini Patra, R.C.C Patnaik and Raghunath Mohanty, Higher Education Minister Samir Dey blamed the UPA Government for reversing the NDA government's decision and the opposition Congress for its silence on the issue.

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Apart from writing to the Prime Minister thrice, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during his recent visit to Delhi took up the matter with Singh and registered his protest against the shifting of NIS to Kolkata.

Meanwhile, the Orissa High Court in an interim order has directed the Centre not to shift the proposed NIS from Bhubaneswar to elsewhere in the region, Dey said.

While requesting for constitution of a house committee under the chairmanship of the Assembly Speaker, the Minister said the State deserve to have such a science institute of excellence because of its backwardness. Besides, there is no national institute of repute like the IIT or IIM in the State.

While blaming the NDA government in general and BJP in particular for the non-establishment of the NIS, Pradesh Congress chief Jayadeb Jena assured full support of his party to the issue. He said his party is ready to take up the issue with the Centre.

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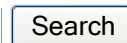
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