



.Friday, January 20, 2006

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**BJD, BJP MLAs flay HRD Minister on NIS issue**

Pioneer News Service / Bhubaneswar

MLAs belonging to BJD and BJP were furious on Thursday after the Union Minister for Human Resources Development Arjun Singh declared that there was no possibility of establishing the National Institute of Science (NIS) in Orissa in near future. The UPA Government (UPA) decided to set up NIS in Kolkata, which was supposed to be established in Bhubaneswar.

Protesting against the statement of Mr Singh, BJD MLAs Jatindranath Mitra, Atanu Sabyasachi, Arun Sahu, Sanjib Sahoo, Vikram Arukh, Vikram Verma and Debi Mishra and BJP MLAs Bayadhara Mallick, Draupadi Murmu, Rabi Narayn Nayak, Pratap Sarangi said the Centre was taking decisions against the interest of the State. They said the Centre bore a step motherly attitude towards Orissa.

The MLAs said that the issue would be taken up with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik after he returned from Delhi on Friday. They also threatened to take up issue in the Assembly in the coming session. They said that the Congress party had taken a different stance on the matter despite their party being a major partner in the UPA Government. The MLAs said they will go to people and expose the Congress in this matter.

The HRD Minister on Wednesday had said in New Delhi that the United Grants Commission (UGC) had not taken permission from the Centre before assuring to grant funds for the establishment of NIS in Orissa. He said the UGC's role was to provide funds and not take decisions. Mr Singh said when the appropriate time comes, he will consider about establishing NIS in Orissa.

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