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PM should reveal purpose of visit: Oram

Pioneer News Service | Rourkela

BJP State President and Sundargarh MP Jual Oram on Saturday expressed concern over Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's two-day visit to Orissa.

Oram stated that before the PM visits the State the PMO should reveal the purpose of the visit. Dwelling on the topic of the National Institute of Science(NIS), Oram wanted to know if Dr Singh was coming to lay the foundation for a national level institute or just an expansion of the Physics centre. Justifying his apprehension, Oram said that if the intention of PM was to inaugurate a national level institution then the people of the State did not have any problem. He said the Prime Minister should clarify the laying of the foundation stone of NIS at Institute of Physics, but why not at the place earmarked for it. Oram said Dr Singh's inauguration of Super Thermal Power station at Kaniha near Talcher is a farce as this unit had been in operation since the last few years and was generating power.

Appreciating the visit of PM to Balangir, Oram said the people of Orissa are eagerly wanting to know what sort of new mega project was being offered by Dr Singh on his maiden visit to the State. He stated that during the NDA Government three mega projects i.e., Paradeep Oil Refinery, AIIMS extension centre and NIS foundation stone were laid by the then PM but the present UPA Government was silent on this issue, rather conspiring to shift the NIS to Kolkata.

During the Narasimha Rao regime, the initiated KBK project was more vulnerable due to the intervention of Vajpayee, but now UPA Government is betraying the State and taking a decision to quash the project. While the Central Government is extending huge assistance to the Congress ruled States at the time of natural calamities, it had hardly given any assistance to Orissa, which clearly establishes a step- motherly attitude of the Centre towards the State, alleged Oram. It is a matter of concern that the Centre is not paying appropriate royalty on minerals like iron ore and coal. He demanded the modernisation of the three medical colleges in the State. Oram said he has sought an appointment from the PM to discuss matters regarding mineral royalty, railway projects and new ports.

Speaking on Posco, Mittal and Reliance, Oram pointed out that the mineral resources should be used judiciously. Expressing concern Oram said once upon a time only 30 million tonnes of ore were exported against the present volume of a 100 million tonnes, which was definitely a bad sign for the future.

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