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Central Budget lets down Orissa

Bhubaneswar:29/February/2008

P Chidambaram has treated Orissa badly.

The Union Finance Minister on one hand in the Economic Survey-2007-08 dubbed the state as the poorest one and on the other has been uncharitable towards the ailing Orissa.

Union Budget for 2008-09 has brought little cheers for this eastern state of India, where 57 percent of the rural population is below the poverty line (BPL).

Analysts find no rhyme or reason why any special packages not announced for the state, where poverty and hunger is ruling the roost.

Koraput-Balangir-Kalahandi (KBK) zone is the poorest of the poor area of the state.

Rahul Gandhi is visiting the poverty and hunger zone next week to shed tears for the poor.

But the UPA Government's Finance Minister has not bothered announce any package for this areas, which is considered at per the Sub-Saharan zone.

Tribal areas of the state is now crying for educational development and UPA government failed to announce KBK Central University, which is being demanded for last 2 years.

Similarly the emotive issue like setting up of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) was ignored, charge Dharendra Kar, leading Non Resident Oriya (NRO).

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan received IITs while 2 IISER allotted to Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, said he.

Orissa is demanding for an IIT and IIM for last so many years and UPA did not bothered for the same, alleged Mr.Kar.

Name any Congress leader, who has not said that Prime Minister has assured an IIT for Orissa.

J B Patnaik, Jaydev Jena, Chandra Sekhar Sahu and several others have told in so many words that Orissa is going to receive an IIT surely and certainly.

Reams of news prints have carried out their statements.

"But Mr.Chidambaram proved all the Congress stalwarts wrong and now they should hang their head in shame", said a senior scribe, Chandrabhanu Pattnayak.

He alleged that Orissa Congress leaders lack spine.

Similar is the case of any special funding for control of Maoist menace.

Maoists are spreading their tentacles in 18 districts and only 11 are covered under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) grant.

Recently in Nayagarh the Maoists created mayhem and killed 16 police personnel in the process.

The State Government is repeatedly demanding at least another 6 districts to be covered under SRE and the grant amount to be raised.

But not a word about the same found place in the Central Budget, said an analyst.

While Lalu Prasad saddened the hearts of Oriyas by treating the state shabbily in the Railway Budget-2008-09, Mr. Chidambaram also handled the state awfully, said he.

"This is because of our weak political leadership of the state", lamented Lalit Patnaik, Chief of Agami Orissa, the leading civil society of the state.

Institutes of Higher Education

: India to become a knowledge society, three IISERs at Mohali, Pune and Kolkata; and an IIIT at Kanchipuram have started functioning.Government to set up 16 Central Universities in each of the hitherto uncovered states;two IISERsInstitutes of Higher Education

: India to become a knowledge society, three IISERs



at Mohali, Pune and Kolkata; and an IIIT at Kanchipuram have started functioning. Government to set up 16 Central Universities in each of the hitherto uncovered states; three IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan; two IISERs at Bhopal and Tiruvananthapuram; and two Schools of Planning and Architecture at Bhopal and Vijayawada: Rs. 5 crore grant provided to Deccan College, Postgraduate and Research Institute, Pune.

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