

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2917
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
CLEARANCES TO COAL MINING
Yadav Shri Madhusudan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the coal mining projects of Hasdeo-Arand forest area of Chhattisgarh sanctioned under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986;
- (b) the details of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee on coal mining projects of Hasdeo-Arand forest area, project-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has sanctioned certain projects contrary to the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which remaining projects are likely to be sanctioned?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received eight proposals for diversion of forest land for mining in the Hasdeo-Arand forest region of Chhattisgarh. The proposals for forest clearances are considered by the Forest Advisory Committee which is a recommending body and the Ministry takes decision taking into consideration the recommendation of the FAC. The FAC had recommended for approval one project in the region, namely, Chotiya I and II. The Ministry has given final approval to this project and in-principal approval to another three projects namely, Tara, Parsa and 'Parsa East and Kaenta Basan' in the region. The remaining four proposals pertaining to Pituria Gidhumuri, 'Nakiya I and II', Morga II and Madanpur South coal blocks have been rejected. Clearance under Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 has been given to Chotiya I and II block only.

(d) Decision of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to accord forest clearance to the proposals are inter alia based on following considerations:

- i) The coal blocks of Tara, Parsa East and Kaenta Basan are located in the fringe of the Hasdeo-Arand forest region.
- ii) These coal blocks are linked to super-critical thermal power stations. Super-critical technology is essential for the country to address the concerns for global warming.
- iii) The Project proponents have introduced substantial changes in the mining plans to accommodate the concerns of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and concerns for wildlife conservation shall be taken care of through a well-prepared and well-executed wildlife management plan.
- iv) The broad developmental picture arising out of the need to sustain the momentum generated in 11th Five Year Plan in terms of capacity addition to power generation has necessitated sanctioning of the projects.

No proposals falling in Hasdeo-Arand forest area are pending for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act in the Ministry.