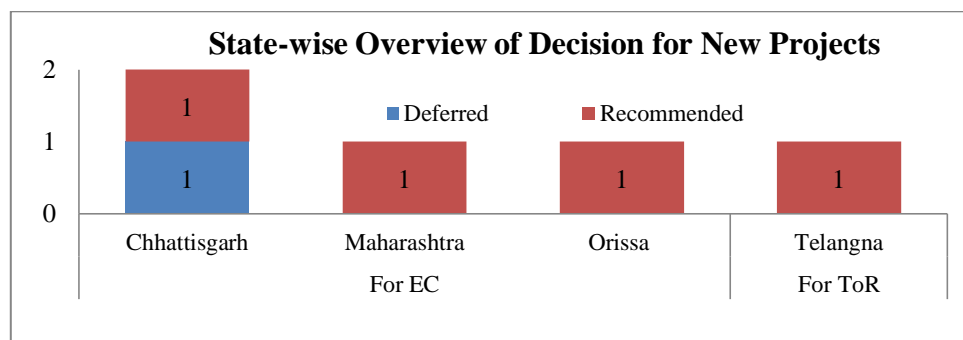


## **EAC recommends 5 MTPA coal capacity addition in Chhattisgarh - 841 ha of virgin Hasdeo Arand Forest at stake**

Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Coal of MoEF&CC in its meeting on 21 February 2019 considered 12 proposals. There were 4 proposals for Environmental Clearance (EC), 1 proposal for Terms of Reference (ToR), 3 proposals for Extension/continuation of EC and 4 proposals for Amendment in EC.

EAC Recommended Parsa Opencast Coal Mining Project (5 mtpa) and Pit Head Coal Washery of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) at Hasdeo Arand Coalfield in Districts Surguja & Surajpur (Chhattisgarh) and Marki Mangli- III Opencast Coal Mining Project (0.21 mtpa) of B. S. Ispat Limited in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) for EC. It will result in coal capacity addition of 5.21 MTPA and a new coal washery of 5 MTPA capacity. Samleswari OC expansion project of MCL in Odisha of existing 15 MTPA (Peak) capacities was recommended for 406.648 ha area expansion.

Kakatiya Khani Opencast - III Coal Mining Project of SCCL in Telangna of 4.23 MTPA capacity in 1336.64 ha lease area has been recommended for ToR.



## **Major highlights**

### EAC deferred 4 MTPA coal washery project in Korba, Chhattisgarh

EAC deferred 2x2 MTPA coal washery project of CG Coal & Power Ltd in district Korba (Chhattisgarh) in view of the issues raised at Public Hearing and desired for inputs and clarifications in respect of following 6 conditions.

- “Carrying capacity of the road for the increased traffic due to transportation of Raw/washed coal from NH to Bilaspur Pali and 400 m stretch of village road.
- MoUs/agreements for linkage of washed coal to the potential consumers

- Land records and actual possession of land for the proposed washery.
- Permission for withdrawal of groundwater from CGWB, if so required
- Traffic density study to be carried out and air pollution modelling due to movement of trucks Proper EMP to address the air quality concern and/or impact on nearby areas (to Kanya Ashram)
- Disposal of washery rejects in conformity with the extant norms/guidelines.”<sup>1</sup>

#### EAC recommends 5 MTPA coal capacity addition at Hasdeo Arand Forest

After several rounds of deferments, finally, EAC found a way to recommend Environmental Clearance to Parsa Opencast Coal Mining Project. For legal tangle and face saving, EAC imposed some conditions. The recommendation is subject to the orders of Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.4395/2014 in the matter of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited Vs Sudiep Shrivastava and other matters pending in Supreme Court or High Court of Chhattisgarh, and the specific conditions as below:-

- “The Committee shall monitor onsite implementation of the observations of the Water Resources Department of the State Government regarding nallah diversion, and also deliberate on the suggestions/comments of Tribal Welfare Department regarding applicability of PESA.
- The EAC shall also review the implementation of Wildlife Management Plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Chhattisgarh, and the study conducted by ICFRE on conservation of bio-diversity and wildlife as committed by the project proponent.
- All terms and conditions stipulated in the stage-I forest clearance dated 13th February, 2019 for diversion of 841.538 ha of forest land, shall be strictly complied with.
- All the public representations received in the Ministry raising environmental concerns, shall be suitably addressed by the project proponent, followed by their confirmation/endorsement by the State Government/SPCB.
- Action plan submitted by the project proponent along with the timelines and funding management to address the issues, suggestions and representations received during public consultations, shall be strictly adhered to.”<sup>2</sup>

#### Chotia-II Captive coal mining project to apply for Revalidation of EC of Chotia-I to get Amendment in EC regarding combined single EC for Chotia-I & Chotia-II

The EAC, after deliberations, desired that “the Ministry may take a comprehensive on their observations for the requirement of single environmental clearance, both for Chotia-I & Chotia-II, against combined mining lease of 1179.826 ha and the single

<sup>1</sup> <http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Form-1A/Minutes/130320190QREMDAFinalApproved43EACMoM.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Form-1A/Minutes/130320190QREMDAFinalApproved43EACMoM.pdf>

Mining Plan. Further, in view of Chotia-I remains an integral part of the combined mining lease area of 1179.826 ha, the Committee asked for revalidation of its EC dated 10th November, 2005 as mandated under the Ministry's Notification dated 6th April, 2018, to consider the present proposal for amendment in the EC for Chotia-II”

<b>Status of Projects Considered</b>						
Stage	Proposal	PP	State	New/ Expn. (MTPA)	Lease area/ Expn. (ha)	Decision
For EC	Samleswari OC Expn.	MCL	Orissa	0	406.648	Recommended
For EC	Marki Mangli - III Opencast Coal Mining Project	B.S. Ispat Limited	Maharashtra	0.21	282	Recommended
For EC	2x2 Mtpa Coal Washery (Wet Process)	CG Coal & Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	4(2X2)	8.195	Deferred
For EC	Parsa Opencast Coal Mine Project (5 MTPA) and Pit Head Coal Washery (5 MTPA)	RVUNL	Chhattisgarh	5 + 5	1252.447	Recommended
For ToR	Kakatiya Khani Opencast - III Coal Mining Project	SCCL	Telangana	4.23	1336.64	Recommended
Ext of EC	Expansion of Gondgaon Extension OC Coal mine Project	WCL	Maharashtra	3.5	917	Recommended
Ext. of EC	Dipka Opencast Project	SECL	Chhattisgarh	30	1999.293	Recommended
Ext. of EC	Gevra Opencast Expn.	SECL	Chhattisgarh	40	4058.146	Recommended
Amdt EC	Chotia II Coal Mine	BALCO	Chhattisgarh	1	216.826	Deferred
Amdt EC	Himgir Coal Washery by wet process	ACB (INDIA) LTD	Orissa	5	13.7	Deferred
Amdt EC	Cluster XI group of 8 mines in Jharia Coalfield	BCCL	Jharkhand	5.004	3527.58	Recommended
Amdt EC	Gare IV/4 OCP Expansion	Jayaswal Neco Ind. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	0.52	701.512	Recommended

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