

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2921
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023**

Mining in Hasdeo Aranya forest in Chhattisgarh

2921. SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

Will the Minister of *COAL* be pleased to state:

- (a) total number of coal blocks allotted in Hasdeo Aranya forest in Chhattisgarh along with the companies to which they have been allotted, the details of year of allocation and the corresponding regions where mining work is in operation;
- (b) block-wise details of of the allottee companies and the partner companies for mining;
- (c) whether the Wildlife Institute of India has conducted any study in this region in recent years and submitted its report to Government, if so, whether the report suggested prohibition on mining operations here ; and
- (d) if so, the details of action taken by Government on the suggestions?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF COAL, MINES & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)**

(a) to (b) Coal blocks allocated by Ministry of Coal in Chhattisgarh which fall in Hasdeo Aranya forest along with details of allocation is as per Annexure enclosed.

(c) to (d) Yes, Sir. In pursuance to condition stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval dated 13.02.2019 granted to Parsa Coal Block, the Government of Chhattisgarh assigned a Biodiversity Assessment Study of whole Hasdeo-Arand Coalfields to Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. ICFRE, Dehradun has submitted report to the State Government. State Government vide their letter dated 14.06.2021 submitted the said report to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) wherein 4 coal blocks have been recommended for mining while mining in another 2 coal blocks has been recommended after detailed exploration/assessment. MoEF&CC, after examination of the said report and recommendation made therein, considered the proposals for approval under the FC Act in the Hasdeo-Arand coalfield and also directed the State Government to incorporate the recommendation made in the study into the Wildlife Management Plan prepared for the Hasdeo-Arand Area.

ANNEXURE

Blocks allocated by Ministry of Coal in Chhattisgarh falling under Hasdeo Aranya forest

| S.No. | Name of Coal Mine | State | District | Successful Bidder / Allottee | Vesting order/ Allotment order date | Mine Opening Permission | Actually Producing |
|-------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Chotia | Chhattisgarh | Korba | Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. | 23-03-2015 | Yes | Yes |
| 2 | Parsa | Chhattisgarh | Sarguja and Surajpur | Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. | 08-09-2015 | Yes | No |
| 3-4 | Parsa East & Kanta Basan | Chhattisgarh | Sarguja and Surajpur | Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. | 31-03-2015 | Yes | Yes |
| 5 | Madanpur South | Chhattisgarh | Korba | Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. | 29-09-2016 | No | No |
| 6 | Kente Extension | Chhattisgarh | Sarguja | Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. | 31-03-2015 | No | No |
