

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 117
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Felling of Trees for Mining Projects

117. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that over two lakh trees have been felled for the Parsa East Kente Basan (PEKB) coal mine operated by Adani Enterprises in Hasdeo forest, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the environmental clearance was granted despite sustained local opposition, tribal rights claims under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the ecological sensitivity of the Hasdeo Arand region;
- (c) if so, the reasons for permitting extensive deforestation in a biodiversity-rich forest during a time of declared climate crisis;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted or reviewed any recent cumulative Environment Impact Assessment of mining in Hasdeo, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government plans to revise its clearance procedures to ensure accountability in the cases of mass tree felling and environmental degradation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) As per the information received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh and the proposal for the diversion of forest land submitted by the State Government, 3,68,217 trees will be affected in the Parsa East Kente Basan (PEKB) coal mine. The diversion of forest land is allowed subject to conditions including the Compensatory Afforestation (CA), payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and other appropriate mitigation measures.
- (b) to (e) The public hearing for the project titled “Parsa East and Kanta Basan Opencast Coal Mine Project (10 MTPA) and Pit Head Coal Washery (10 MTPA) located at Hasdeo-Arand Coalfields, in villages Parsa, Kente, Basan, Salhi, Hariharpur, Ghatbara, Parogiya, Tehsil Udaypur, Dist. Sarguja, Chhattisgarh” was conducted by Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CECB) on 16/01/2009. The issues raised during the said public hearing were duly deliberated by the EAC and the proposal was recommended for grant of EC. Based on the EAC recommendations, the EC was accorded by the Ministry on 21/12/2011.

Thereafter, another public hearing was conducted by the CECB on 11/09/2016 for increase in coal mining & coal washery capacity from 10 MTPA to 15 MTPA. The issues raised in the public hearing include mine discharge, arrangement of treatment of polluted water, transportation of coal, employment, culture and traditions, rehabilitation etc. These issues have been duly deliberated by the EAC and the proposal was recommended for grant of EC. Based on the EAC recommendations for expansion as above EC was accorded on 10/08/2018.

Subsequently, another expansion EC was accorded on 14/02/2022 for increase in coal production from 15 to 18 MTPA (20% expansion) as per the MoEF&CC Office Memorandum dated 15/09/2017. As part of this expansion project, proponent has carried out a cumulative impact assessment for the coal mining and the coal washery. It includes the assessment of impact on Air, Water, Soil, Forest Cover and Biodiversity. EIA also includes specific mitigation strategies like dust suppression & water management systems, noise control measures, reforestation plans to counter the environmental impacts of mining activities.

M/s RRVUNL has carried out a carrying capacity study for kente extension coal block comprising of parsa coal block, parsa east & kente basan coal block & kente extension coal block during 2024.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that all mining activities including in the Hasdeo region, are carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner. Mining is allowed with adequate mitigation measures keeping in view the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and all other applicable Acts, Rules and Guidelines.
