



FAC is considering 1743 ha of forest for diversion

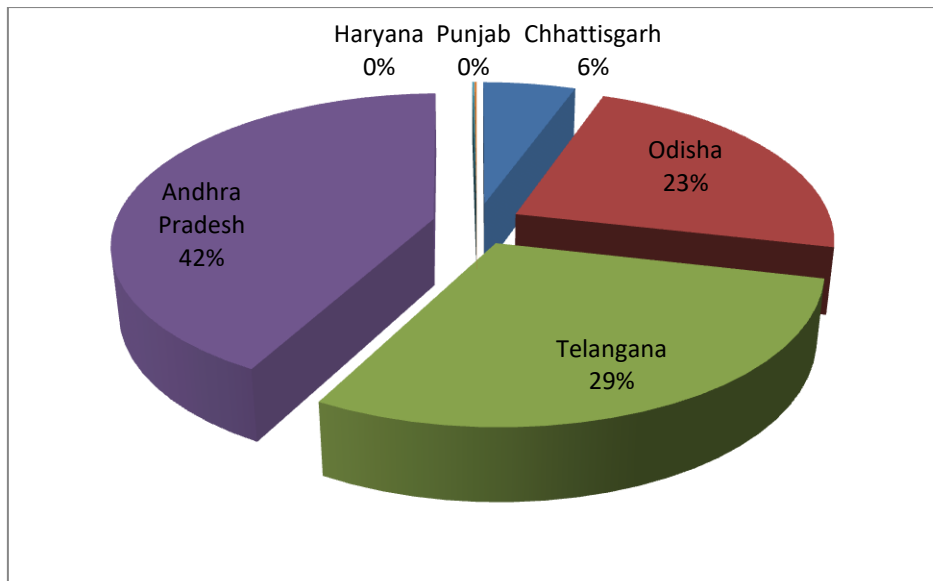
The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in its meeting on Thursday, the 21 February 2019, is considering 8¹ proposals involving 1743.45 ha of forest for diversion.

State-wise, the largest area of 730.88 ha is being considered in Andhra Pradesh for an irrigation proposal, while sector-wise mining has the largest area of 893.47 ha in three proposals.

State-wise proposals

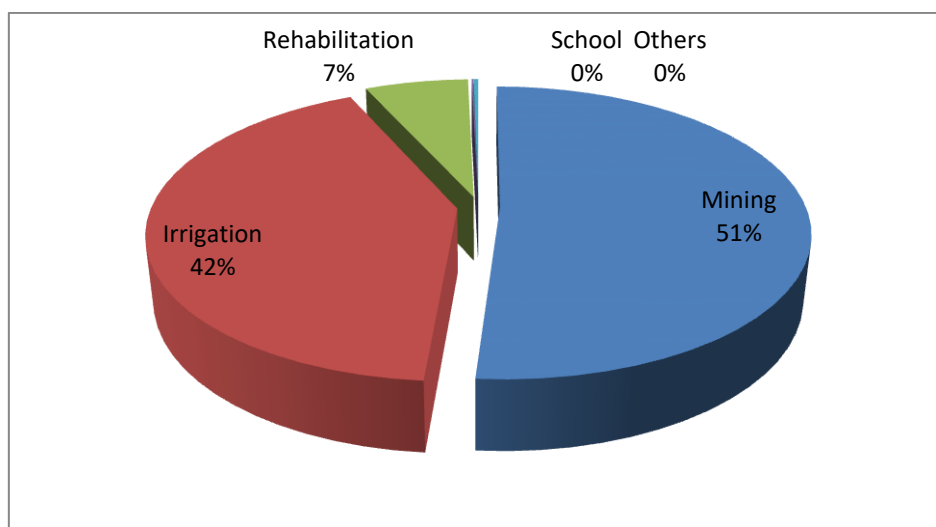
Sr. No.	State	Area (ha.)	Area(%)	Proposals
1	Chhattisgarh	96.46	5.5	2
2	Odisha	401.7824	23.045	1
3	Telangana	510.11	29.258	2
4	Andhra Pradesh	730.88	41.92	1
5	Haryana	1.985	0.11	1
6	Punjab	2.2348	0.128	1
	Total	1743.45		8

¹ One proposal of 21978 ha of forest land in Damoh, MP for prospecting of oil and natural gas for drilling of 5940 boreholes, and another similar proposal, 1321 ha of forest land in Damoh, MP for prospecting of oil and natural gas for drilling of 2753 shot holes are for prospecting only. Thus, they have not been counted in diversion. Another proposal for transfer of final forest clearance in favour of JSW Utkal Steel Ltd has also not been counted.



Sector-wise proposals

Sr. No.	Sector	Area (ha.)	Area%	Proposals
1	Mining	893.4724	51.24	3
2	Irrigation	730.88	41.92	1
3	Rehabilitation	112	6.42	1
4	School	1.985	0.11	1
5	Others	5.1148	0.29	2
	Total	1743.45		8



It is matter of serious concern that these days Ministry is uploading agenda of FAC meeting only two-three days in advance. Furthermore, the factsheets for several proposals have not been provided.

FAC agenda can be accessed from Ministry's website at :
<http://forestclearance.nic.in/AgendaDetail.aspx?id=215!dis1>

Review by

Pushp Jain and Anand Jha
EIA Resource and Response Centre (ERC)
Legal Initiative for Forest & Environment (LIFE)
New Delhi - 110 048. Web : ercindia.org;
Email : pushp@ercindia.org; pushp@lifeindia.net.in