

# Jindal Power's ₹13,000-crore project gets initial 'green' nod

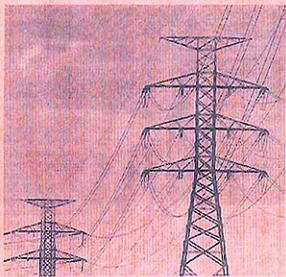
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, 27 August

Nearly three months after it withdrew initial nod, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has restored the clearance granted to Jindal Power for its ₹13,000-crore project in Chhattisgarh.

After reviewing the case and details submitted by the project proponent (Jindal Power), the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the ministry had recommended at a recent meeting that the project might be appraised by following the original terms of reference (ToR), a senior ministry official said.

In June, the ministry had revoked the initial clearance or ToRs given to Jindal Power last year, citing the violation of certain green norms. "The environment ministry had withdrawn the ToR saying that the company cannot construct the power plant in the estimated 62 hectares of land," the official said.

The ministry, which called the proposed project as "premature", had also said that the firm had changed the loca-



tion of the proposed plant. However, at the EAC meeting, Jindal Power officials contended that the project would come up at 456 hectares of land and also maintained there was no change in the location of the power plant as alleged by the environment ministry, the official said.

The ministry had also charged the company with

starting the construction work for the new power plant at the site and asked the state government to take action against the firm.

The government official added that "the issue of start of construction prior to environment clearance may be delinked with the issue of restoration of ToR for four projects of 600 Mw each in view of the

Chhattisgarh government filing a suit in a local court on the matter."

Confirming the development, with the restoration of the ToRs, a senior Jindal Power official said the company could go ahead with the appraisal process such as conducting an environment impact assessment study of the project that entails an investment of ₹13,410 crore. Of this, over ₹10,000 crore of debt has been tied up.

The official also said that the company had already placed orders with state-run BHEL for equipment worth ₹765 crore. Coal linkages has been approved for the first two units of the 2,400-Mw plant. The company is targeting to commission two units of 600 Mw each out of the proposed 2,400 Mw before March 2012.

Jindal Power, which is gearing up to launch an initial public offering later this year, has planned an investment of ₹65,000 crore in the next 10 years for increasing its power production capacity.

It currently runs a 1,000-Mw power project in Chhattisgarh.