

Jindal project in Raigarh gets a breather

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In a breather to Jindal Power Ltd (JPL), a company run by the family of ruling Congress party member of Parliament Naveen Jindal, an expert appraisal committee has recommended environmental clearance for its 2,400MW power project in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, which will require an investment of ₹13,410 crore.

The expert appraisal committee is mandated to set the terms of reference for environment impact assessment reports. It recommends whether the environment ministry should approve a project or turn it down.

The ministry had earlier asked the Chhattisgarh government to take action against JPL for starting construction of the 2,400MW plant at a site that had received environmental clearance for a 1,000MW project. It later allowed JPL to go ahead with preliminary studies for environmental clearance. JPL is a unit of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.

JPL plans to raise \$2.1 billion (₹9,470 crore) through an initial public offering. Opposition parties have accused the environment ministry of favouring Congress-ruled states when it comes to giving environmental clearances.