

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FERRO ALLOYS PLANT BY INSTALLATION OF 1 X 9 MVA SUBMERGED ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE FOR ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION OF 18,480 TPA FERRO MANGANESE AND / OR 13,200 TPA SILICO MANGANESE WITHIN ITS EXISTING PLANT PREMISES AT BENAGARI, P.O. DURLAVPUR, P.S. GANGAJALGHATI, DIST. BANKURA, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S CENTOM STEELS & FERRO ALLOYS LTD., HELD ON 28.01.2011 AT 11:30 HRS. AT BENAGARI PRIMARY SCHOOL, VILL. BENAGARI, P.O. DURLAVPUR, P.S. GANGAJALGHATI, DIST. BANKURA, WEST BENGAL.**

M/S Centom Steels & Ferro Alloys Ltd., Benagari, P.O. Durlavpur, P.S. Gangajalghati, Dist. Bankura submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Ferro Alloys plant by installation of 1 X 9 MVA Submerged Electric Arc Furnace (SEAF) for additional production of 18,480 TPA Ferro Manganese and / or 13,200 TPA Silico Manganese within its existing plant premises at Benagari, P.O. Durlavpur, P.S. Gangajalghati Dist. Bankura, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Environmental Clearance of the said project is required to be obtained from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, held the Public Hearing on 28th January, 2011 at 11.30 Hrs.. at Benagari Primary School, Vill. Benagari, P.O. Durlavpur, P.S. Gangajalghati, Dist. Bankura, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing, Sri T.K.Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Bankura presided over the hearing. List of the panel members and the others present in the public hearing is enclosed.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Sri T.K.Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Bankura. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification. Sri S.Narayan, Sr. Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Centom Steels & Ferro Alloys Ltd. for expansion of their existing Ferro Alloys Plant by installation of 1 X 9 MVA SEAF at Benagari, P.O. Durlavpur, P.S. Gangajalghati, Dist. Bankura.

The Project Proponent was then asked to explain the details about the proposed project for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri Sandip Ghosh on behalf of M/s Centom Steels & Ferro Alloys Ltd, narrated about the project details and the proposed pollution control devices through Power Point presentation emphasizing on the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures to be taken by them. The project proposal is for expansion of the Ferro Alloys Plant by installation of 1X9 MVA SEAF for additional production of 18,480 TPA Ferro Manganese and / or 13,200 TPA Silico Manganese. He has mentioned about their emission control proposal. He has also confirmed that the local people shall be consulted in each stage of the project and the industry is planning for initiating social responsibility programmes like vocational training for local people, arrangement for drinking water, primary health check up,

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development of the local schools, cultural activities, road & drainage system, rain water harvesting through storage of rain water by digging ponds in adjacent areas, development of greeneries etc.

He further supplemented this technical presentation by confirming that the fines collected / arrested at pollution control equipments will be recycled in the process, slag produced from production of Ferro-Manganese will be reused to produce Silico-Manganese and slag from Silico-Manganese production will be used for development of roads. The source of water required for the proposed expansion project would be bore well. Waste water generated from different sources, after treatment/ settling will be utilised for dust suppression and green belt development. He has also mentioned that they would generate employment for local people and take neighboring villagers into confidence in each stage of project.

During the discussion the panel members and the others present in the public hearing made queries / suggestions with respect to the proposed project, which are noted below:

Sri S.Narayan, Sr. Environmental Engineer, WBPCB has pointed out that the tap hole emission from the SEAF should be properly taken care of. He further suggested the project proponent to contact the Wastes Management Cell of the Board regarding disposal of slag generated from Submerged Arc Furnace.

Sri Sasadhar Ojha of Ghatakgram village and an employee of M/s Centom Steels & Ferro Alloys Ltd. informed that they don't have any problem with the existing plant and welcomed the proposed project.

Sri Ashoke Kundu, Ghatakgram village asked about the CSR programme of the project proponent. He also informed that they are suffering due to air pollution caused by the existing unit and requested the PP to take due care for abatement of air pollution.

Sri Mohan Roy, Ex Prodhan of Latiaboni Gram Panchayat requested the PP for improvement of the local roads and to take care of their other CSR programme. He, however, welcomed the expansion project as it will increase scope for employment and improve the socio-economic condition of the locality. He further requested the PP to take adequate measures to control environmental pollution.

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Sri Barun Mondal of Radhakrishnapur village, Sri Tapan Mondal of Sidhudanga village, Sri Kajal Mondal of Nandanpur village and Sri Anshuman Das, Kurushthalia village & also an employee of M/s Centom Steels & Ferro Alloys Ltd. welcomed the proposed expansion project.

Sri Jadav Sarkar, Dangmeja village welcomed the expansion project. He, however, requested the PP to give priority to the local young people for employment and also to take due care of the environment.

Sri Jaladhar Kundu of Ghatakgram and a small businessman welcomed the project as it will help improvement of the local villages. He, however, pointed out that the existing industries are creating environmental pollution in the neighbouring villages and expressed his apprehension about the additional pollution load due to this proposed expansion project.

Sri Fatik Chandra Das of Ranipur village and a small shopkeeper welcomed the expansion project and expressed his satisfaction to the PP for taking care towards social welfare of the local villagers.

Sri Mrityunjoy Mondal, Barabaid village and Sri Krishna Chandra Kundu, Japawali village welcomed the project as it will improve the socio-economic condition of the locality.

Sri Satya Das, Muktarampur village and an employee of the existing factory welcomed the proposed expansion project. He also expressed his satisfaction to the PP towards employment and local development

Sri Nabani Dhibar, Benagari village welcomed the proposed expansion project and expressed his satisfaction to the PP towards socio-economic development of the locality. He also requested the PP to arrange for drinking water for the local villagers.

Sri Rabi Roy, Benagari village told that he has been benefited by the existing unit and welcomed the proposed expansion project. He requested the PP for employment of the local people.

Sri Jagadish Ghosh, Benagari village welcomed the proposed expansion project. He, however, requested the PP for better arrangement of drinking water and other CSR proposals. Sri Bidhan Roy, Benagari village expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the development work of the local areas, as claimed by the existing unit. He further told that due to movement of heavy

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vehicles, the area has become accident prone zone. He also mentioned that the local people particularly the school children are suffering from dust pollution due to movement of heavy vehicles. He further complained that the existing units are creating pollution to the local water resources.

Sri Arun Mondal residing in Manohar village and an employee of the unit informed that they do not have any problem with the existing plant and welcomed the expansion project.

Sri T.K. Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Bankura requested the representatives of M/S Centom Steels and Ferro Alloys Ltd. to respond to villagers' queries.

Sri Bibhuti Bhusan Bari, Production-in-charge of M/s. Centom Steels and Ferro Alloys Ltd., on behalf of Sri D.S.N. Murty, Managing Director, appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He stated that the Project proponent will address all the issues raised in the public hearing during finalizing the environmental management plan. He confirmed that they will take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also committed that the social responsibility programmes shall be taken up in consultation with the local administration.

Sri T.K. Mitra, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Bankura emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the project proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental problems and various issues raised by the people present in the hearing. He expected that the proposed expansion project will improve the socio-economic condition of the area. He has expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing procedure.

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Sri S. Narayan,  
Sr. Environmental Engineer,  
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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Sri T.K. Mitra,  
Additional District Magistrate (LR),  
Dist. Bankura