

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF STEEL PLANT BY INSTALLING 2X9 MVA FERRO ALLOY PLANT AND 1X15 MT INDUCTION FURNACE FOR PRODUCTION OF 11,585 TPA OF FERRO-SILICON, 23,450 TPA OF SILICO-MANGANESE, 35,175 TPA OF FERRO-MANGANESE AND 35,780 TPA OF M.S. BILLETS AT MOUZA - NAKRAJURIA, PS – SALANPUR, , DIST – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S CHHABRA ISPAT PRIVATE LIMITED, HELD ON 20.07.2011 AT 12:00 NOON AT THE MEETING HALL OF SALANPUR PANCHAYAT SAMITY, DIST – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/S Chhabra Ispat Private Limited submitted an application to the West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed 2X9 MVA Ferro Alloy Plant and 1X15 MT Induction Furnace for production of 11,585 TPA of Fe-Si, 23,450 TPA of Si-Mn, 35,175 TPA of Fe-Mn and 35,780 TPA of M.S. Billets at Mouza- Nakrajuria, PS – Salanpur, Dist. - Burdwan 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 20th July, 2011 at 12.00 Noon at the Meeting Hall of Salanpur Panchayat Samity, Dist – Burdwan, West Bengal. All the panel members were present in the hearing, Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol 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 Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Chhabra Ispat Private Limited for the proposed 2X9 MVA Ferro Alloy Plant and 1X15 MT Induction Furnace for production of 11,585 TPA of Fe-Si, 23,450 TPA of Si-Mn, 35,175 TPA of Fe-Mn and 35,780 TPA of M.S. Billets at Mouza- Nakrajuria, PS – Salanpur, Dist. – Burdwan.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol then requested the Project Proponent (PP) to explain in details about the proposed project for discussion among the panel members and others present in the hearing.

Sri S. Bhattacharjee, on behalf of M/S Chhabra Ispat Private Limited, 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. He has pointed out that a brief description has already been circulated among the people present at hearing. He has mentioned about their emission control proposal for each unit. He has also confirmed that the local people shall be consulted in each stage of the project and the industry is planning for initiating Corporate Social Responsibility programmes like supply of books, table/chair, and computer to local primary school and will provide scholarship for meritorious students of that locality. They will assist

local people in association with the Gram Panchayat for setting up of ancillary units by way of bank finance and technical guidance. He has further mentioned that they will arrange health check-up camp for employees as well as the local villagers. He has also mentioned that they would generate employment for local people and take neighboring villagers into confidence in each stage of project.

He further mentioned about green belt development, rain water harvesting programme and invited suggestion from the panel member as well as the audiences.

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 Shyamal Majumdar , Saho-Sabhapati of Salanpur Pachayat Samity welcomed the proposed expansion project with all the commitments made by the PP during their presentation. He informed that they want the industry along with infrastructural support and employment for local people. He also expressed his concern regarding indiscriminate withdrawal of ground water by the industries in the Salanpur area leading to serious water scarcity in the locality. He also apprehended that the proposed Ferro-alloy unit may cause serious environmental degradation and requested the PP to take appropriate abatement measures in this regard.

Sri Pradyut Banerjee of Dendua village welcomed the proposed expansion project provided all the commitments made by the PP are strictly complied with.

Sri Goutam Maji of Dendua village supported the views expressed by Sri Pradyut Banerjee.

Sri Anup Ghosal of Jemari Village welcomed the said project and requested the PP to provided employment for local people, as committed.

Mr. Abhijit Dutta of Nakrajharia Village welcomed the project but expressed his concern about non-compliance of commitment made earlier by the other units regarding employment of local people. He, however, requested the PP and the local administration to look into the matter so that repetition of the above does not take place.

Sri Kalyan Ghosh, an employee of M/s. Chhabra Ispat (P) Ltd and also a local resident welcomed the project. He, however, requested the PP to arrange for vocational training programme for unskilled employees for upgradation of their technical skill.

Sri Shyamal Majumdar , Saho-Sabhapati of Salanpur Pachayat Samity enquired about water requirement for the expansion project and its source. He mentioned that panchayat samity can supply water for domestic purpose only.He also clearly mentioned that abstraction of ground water without permission from the competent authority will be strictly dealt with by the Panchayat Samity. He further requested the PP to consider the people of Dendua Gram Panchayat , most of whom are Below Poverty Level, for employment.

Sri Ajan Fouzdar , Assistant Environmental Engineer & Incharge , Asansol Sub-Regional Office , West Bengal Pollution Control Board pointed out that plant layout incorporating programme

for plantation on 33% of land area has not been mentioned. He also mentioned that Ground Water Recharging within the plant premises is not permitted. He made query how the PM_{2.5} has been measured during preparation of the draft EIA report. He further pointed out that the procedure of arresting tap hole emission has not been clearly mentioned.

Sri Joydeep Das, Block Development Officer, Salanpur Block requested the PP to comply the CSR programme as per their commitment and mentioned that the same will be monitored by local administration.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, ADM, Asansol requested the representatives of M/S Chhabra Ispat Pvt. Ltd. to respond to villagers queries.

Sri Sourav Jain, Director of M/S Chhabra Ispat Pvt. Ltd. appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He stated that the PP will address all the issues raised in the public hearing during finalizing the environmental management plan. He confirmed that they have already obtained permission from competent authority for abstraction of ground water and shall take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also committed that the social responsibility program shall be taken up in consultation with local administration.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, ADM, Asansol 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 further requested the PP to incorporate proposal for extensive plantation program, Rain Water Harvesting and generation of new surface water sources in the locality, in the final EIA report. He also requested the PP to consult with the local administration regarding scope of ancillary units so that the Govt. institution can provide necessary training to the local people to match with the requirement. The project is welcomed only after incorporation of all the pollution control measures and corporate social responsibility programmes proposed by the Project Proponent. He assured the audience that the proceedings of this public hearing shall be duly forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and further expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing procedure.

Sri A. Fouzdar,
Assistant Environmental Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sri Biswajit Dutta,
Additional District Magistrate, Asansol,
Dist. Burdwan