

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED DWARAKESWAR-GANDHESWARI RESERVOIR PROJECT IN THE DISTRICT OF BANKURA, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL HELD ON 26.06.2007 AT RABINDRA BHABAN, BANKURA, WEST BENGAL

Irrigation & Waterways Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting Public Hearing for the proposed Dwarakeswar-Gandheswari Reservoir Project in the District of 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 Public Hearing.

Accordingly, WBPCB after completing all formalities, held a Public Hearing on 26th June, 2007 at 12.30 Hrs at Rabindra Bhaban, Bankura. The Panel Members were present in the Hearing. A considerable gathering was present in the Public Hearing.

The Hearing started with a welcome note from Shri G. P. Sen, Additional District Magistrate (General), Bankura who presided over the Hearing. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Senior Environmental Engineer and Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB explained about the provisions of the above stated MOEF Notification. Shri Sen, Additional District Magistrate (General), Bankura then requested the Project Proponent to explain the details about the proposed project for the benefit of the Panel Members and other participants present in the Hearing.

On behalf of the Project Proponent Shri Kamales Chatterjee, Chief Engineer (Design & Research), Irrigation & Waterways Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal then explained about the project by Power Point presentation, the likely environmental impacts arising out of the same as well as the proposed environmental management issues and measures to be taken by them.

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:

Prof. Gauri Shankar Dey, Shri Asit Das, Shri Prabhat Goswami, Shri Ganga Goswami, Md. Giasuddin, Shri Lokenath Chatterjee and Shri Ananda Hazra on behalf of Gandheswari Nadi Bachao Committee welcomed the proposed project, however, they have pointed out that the project proponent should look into the following aspects while implementing such project:

- Adequate measures for avoiding siltation in both the rivers
- Adequate measures for abatement of pollution level in both the rivers in the reservoir area as well as in the downstream for supply of safe drinking water to the Bankura town and adjoining villages
- Adequate arrangement should be made for proper rehabilitation and resettlement programme for the affected villages due to such river valley project.
- They have also mentioned that necessary measures may be considered for treatment of liquid waste and municipal solid waste in Bankura town.
- The representative of Gandheswari Nadi Bachao Committee stressed upon the issues related to encroachment in both banks of the rivers and regular dredging of silt in the rivers. They have requested that the project proponent should go for more afforestation in the catchment area.
- They have further requested that the project proponent should take necessary measures for implementation of such project as early as possible.

Shri Prabhas Kundu, Shri Ganesh Kundu of Suknibasa village requested the project proponent to explain the details of the R&R programme.

Shri Bansi Dey, Vice President, Bankura District Congress welcomed the project and also requested that the project proponent should take measures for arrangement of water supply in the Bankura district both for domestic and industrial purposes.

Shri Nepal Chandra Roy of Pratapbagan welcomed the project proposal. He has requested the project proponent to pursue all levels of the Govt. both State and Centre for early implementation of the project as the people of Bankura district particularly of this area are eagerly waiting for the project. He also pointed out that some works are to be taken up for construction of a gutter channel up to the required bed level of the Gandheswari river for resuscitation.

Shri Santi Gopal Chowdhury, Pratappur stated that the Pratappur Main Canal has been surveyed on two alignments on either side of the Pratappur village. He requested the project proponent that the right alignment following the left bank of river Dwarakeswar going through the command area of the RLI there to be avoided and the left alignment is to be followed.

Shri Bidyut Chatteraj mentioned that the project proponent may engage the local self help group for different project activities.

On behalf of the Project Proponent Shri Kamales Chatterjee, Chief Engineer (Design & Research), I & W Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal appreciated the concern expressed by different participants and welcomed the suggestions. He also indicated that all the above stated issues have incorporated while finalizing the environmental management plan. He further mentioned the details of mouzas and villages of the reservoir area of the Dwarakeswar and Gandheswari. He also mentioned that the R&R Plan will be implemented as per the prevailing guidelines of Govt. of India and Govt. of West Bengal.

Sri Sen, ADM (General), Bankura emphasized that all possible measures should be ensured by the project proponent towards the mitigation of all environmental hazards and various points raised by the public present in the hearing. In general the public present in the hearing welcome the project incorporating Environmental Management Plan proposed by the Project Proponent.

Sd/-
(Dr. T. K. Gupta)
Sr. Environmental Engineer &
Incharge – Consent Cell, WBPCB

Sd/-
(G. P. Sen)
Additional District Magistrate (General)
Bankura