

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF STEEL PLANT (UNIT- IV) BY INSTALLATION OF COKE OVEN PLANT(NON-RECOVERY TYPE- 1,65,000 TPA), ALONGWITH PRODUCER GAS PLANT (9000 Nm³/HR) AND CAPTIVE POWER PLANT- 45 MW (WHRB- 9 MW & AFBC- 36 MW) AT VILL. BANSKOPA, PO- RAJBANDH, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S. JAI BALAJI INDUSTRIES LIMITED, HELD ON 15.07.2010 AT 11:30 HRS. AT THE OFFICE OF THE DURGAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, DURGAPUR, DIST. BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/S Jai Balaji Industries Limited submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Steel Plant (Unit- IV) for production of Metallurgical Coke- 1,65,000 TPA by installation of Non-recovery type Coke Oven Plant alongwith Producer Gas Plant of capacity- 9000 Nm³/Hr.and Captive Power Plant of capacity- 45 MW (WHRB-9 MW & AFBC- 36 MW) at Vill. Banskopa, PO- Rajbandh, Dist. Burdwan, West Bengal. As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Public Hearing is to be conducted for this project as a part of Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for obtaining Environmental Clearance for the said project.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities, held the Public Hearing on 15th July, 2010 at 11.30 Hrs..at the Office of the Durgapur Municipal Corporation, Durgapur, 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 the provisions of the above mentioned MoEF notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Jai Balaji Industries Limited for setting up a Non-recovery type Coke Oven Plant along with Producer Gas plant and Captive Power Plant at their exiting plant at Vill.Banskopa, PO- Rajbandh, Dist. Burdwan. He briefed the audience about the significance of understanding the probable environmental impacts from proposed industrial activities and the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in regard to safeguarding the environment. 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.

Dr. Subrata Basu, Senior General Manager (Environment), M/s Jai Balaji Industries 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. This is a proposed expansion project of Steel Plant (Unit- IV) for production of Metallurgical Coke (1,65,000 TPA) by installation of Non-recovery type Coke Oven Plant along with Producer Gas Plant (9000 Nm³/Hr.) and Captive Power Plant of capacity- 45 MW (WHRB-9 MW & AFBC- 36 MW) at Vill.

Banskopa, PO- Rajbandh, Dist. Burdwan. He has mentioned about their emission control proposal. He also presented the base line environmental information which has been monitored through the EIA study and also mentioned about the air quality data available in the WBPCB website. He informed that the industry is already taking necessary steps for plantation etc and would attempt to operate the plant in a environmentally sustainable manner..

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 Somdeb Bhattacharya, Durgapur-1 welcomed the proposed project with all the commitments made by the PP during their presentation. He clarified that people want industry but not pollution. He requested the management to set up First Aid Centres and to elaborate the green belt programmes.

Sri Gunamoy Pandit of Birbhonpur Village mentioned that although the pollution caused by existing plant have not been completely addressed, but the expansion is desired as this would increase the scope of employment in the neighborhood. He being also a worker of the same factory and a resident of the surrounding village requested for continuous operation of the pollution control devices. He further mentioned that the local people have faced acute water scarcity. He requested for setting up of health centres and addressing the water crisis issue. Sri Paresh Akure, Banskopa also mentioned about the fugitive emission from Unit-IV. He, however, welcomed the expansion project.

Sri Sangram. Ghosh, Muchipara, Durgapur differed from his previous speaker and mentioned that he being a worker of the company and also a resident of surrounding area have seen that the Bag filters are operational and plantation work is in progress. He expressed his hope that the project shall increase the scope of job and employment. Sri Timir Baran Ghosh of Sagarbhanga villaga also mentioned about the vast plantation programme. He also mentioned that the unit has started rain water harvesting.

Sri Achintya Kumar Majhi, Durgapur.stated that his residence is within two kilometers from the existing factory of M/S. Jai Balaji Industries Limited and his experience suggests that the unit regularly operates the ESPs and emission is not perceived as a problem except during winter. He added that the water availability is not satisfactory and the project proponent may explore alternate routes for solving water crisis. He expected that the project would increase employment opportunity and therefore the project activity is welcome.

Sri Pranab Gopal Majumdar, a resident of Durgapur –I mentioned that as a worker of the Unit-IV, he is proud and happy for the expansion project but as the residents are facing problem due to inadequate roads and transport, the company should look into the matter. Sri Rousan Khan of village Sagarbhanga advocated industrialization as it would reduce unemployment problem.

Sri Shanti Ranjan Das, Namosagarbhanga, Durgapur mentioned that expansion is welcome as it would generate employment. However, he expressed his concern about the water crisis which is aggravating due to abstraction of ground water resulting into decline of water levels in neighboring village wells. He stated that the villagers are dependent on these wells in this heavily water scarce region. He also questioned about the quality of data presented in EIA by the projected proponent. He mentioned that yield per bigha of land is also reducing. The villagers want industrialization but these environmental issues should be sorted out. He also requested for setting up of health camps in this region.

Sri Manik Chandra Bauri, a resident of Fertilizer Township opined that industry without pollution is always welcome for development of the socio-economic condition of their villages. He stated that plantation programme is in progress. He expressed his hope that as appropriate technologies are available for controlling pollution, above mentioned environmental problems shall be solved with adequate technological interventions.

Sri Shambhu Kumar Aash of Namosagarbhanga village. informed the audience that as a power plant worker he knows about huge plantation programme within the plant area but as a resident of the locality he wants expansion of green belt programmes in adjacent villages, solution for water crisis, health camps and co-operation for supporting the sports in the locality.

Sri Biswajit Dutta , Additional District Magistrate, Asansol requested the representatives of M/S Jai Balaji Industries Limited. to respond to villagers queries.

Dr.S.Basu representative, M/s. Jai Balaji Industries Limited. appreciated the various issues expressed by different participants and welcomed their suggestions. He stated that the project proponent will address all the issues raised in the public hearing during finalizing the environmental management plan in EIA. He confirmed that they would not abstract ground water without prior permission from competent authority. He mentioned that the plantation is in progress within the plant area. He informed the audience that fugitive emission problem referred in public hearing was caused during a limited span of period due to revamping work only. He added that two health camps are running on monthly rotational basis in neighboring villages. The industry is striving to improve its environmental performance and shall take all necessary measures to comply with the suggestions made in this public hearing. He also stated that the social responsibility programmes shall be expanded.

Dr. D. Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB implored the project proponent to install and operate the plant with appropriate environment management plan with special reference to the air quality of the area as proposed in this conceptual stage. The project proponent has also been requested to supplement the final EIA with additional information as provided in the TOR by the MoEF, Government of India.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol summarised the responses and the opinion of the people raised during the public hearing. He emphasized that all possible measures

should be ensured by the Project Proponent towards the mitigation of environmental problems. He reminded that the district administration and the West Pollution Control Board are keeping strict vigil over the situation. The project proponent should operate the pollution control systems satisfactorily on continuous basis. It is to be kept in mind that improving the environmental practices is not a onetime target to be achieved but a journey. In this continuous pursuit of improving environmental performance, various issues raised by the people present in the hearing should be addressed with proper attention. The green belt programme should be extended up to air quality impact zone. Abstraction of ground water without prior permission is not permitted. The project proponent may explore scope of increasing surface reserves in commensuration with the ground water abstracted. Intensity of health camps may be increased. The project proponent may reorient the corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes for ensuring long term benefits of villagers like identification of ways and means for increasing agricultural productivity through introduction of new agricultural practices. The stakeholders should be taken into confidence during such activities. Sri Biswajit Dutta, Additional District Magistrate, Asansol expressed his gratitude to the audience for their active participation in this public hearing procedure and concluded the public hearing with a hope that this proposed expansion with all the adequate environmental measures and CSR activities shall be implemented in time.

Dr. Dipanjana Maulik,
Environmental Engineer,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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