

Proceedings of the Public Hearing held at the Office of the Block Development Officer, Jhargram Block, Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur on 13/07/2011 regarding the proposed Integrated Steel Plant project of capacity- 1 MTPA of M/s. Onkar Ispat Ltd., to be located at Vill. - Guptomoni, P.S. - Jhargram, Dist. - Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.

M/s. Onkar Ispat Limited submitted an application to the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (herein after referred to as the State Board) for conducting a Public Hearing for setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant of capacity 1 MTPA at Guptomoni, P.S. - Jhargram, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. As per the notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 of the MoEF, Govt. of India, Environmental Clearance (EC) for the said project is required to be obtained from the MoEF, Govt. of India after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, the State Board after observing all formalities, held the Public Hearing on 13th July, 2011 (Wednesday) at about 12:00 noon at the Office of the Block Development Officer, Jhargram Block, Jhargram, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur. A considerable gathering of people were also present during the hearing. List of the panel members and others present during the public hearing is enclosed.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Dr. D. Maulik, Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board. She briefed the audience about the modalities of Public Hearing, which is part of Public Consultation process under EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments. She, then requested Sri S. Das, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General), Paschim Medinipur to preside over the hearing.

Shri S. Das, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General), Paschim Medinipur highlighted the importance & objectives of Public Hearing and requested the project proponent to deliver their presentation. He requested the project proponent to clearly describe the industrial process and source of raw material etc. in detail and to use local language.

Mr. R. Kanungo of M/s. Sun Consultancy of Bhubaneswar, consultant to M/s. Onkar Ispat Ltd., welcomed the audience on behalf of the project proponent and described the proposed activities through power point presentation. During the presentation he mentioned about the major project features, site details, land acquisition status, raw materials requirement, type of

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industrial activities to be undertaken, water quantity & sources of water, control measures for emission, scope of employment generation etc. In his presentation, Mr. Kanungo stated that surface water source, mainly water from River Kangsabati shall be used for this project. He also stated that proposal for production of Sponge Iron has not been included in this proposed project. On hearing the proposal of the unit, Additional District Magistrate (General), Paschim Medinipur also explained the source of raw material and its transport plan to the audience. As desired by Additional District Magistrate (General), Paschim Medinipur the representative of project proponent described the second half of the presentation including Corporate Social Responsibility programme with Bengali slides.

After the presentation Shri S. Das, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General), Paschim Medinipur requested the audience to express their views, apprehensions and opinion, if any, about this proposed project.

Sri Chittaranjan Mahato of village Doldoli enquired about the proposal of unit to address compensation issues for those people who would be affected due to the land acquisition by this project.

Sri Tanuram Mahato of village Borjori expressed his reservation against any recruitment through contractors. He demanded for direct employment schemes by the project proponent.

Sri Tarapada Mahato of village Khagrasole enquired about the procedure of engaging contractors and also engaging people through contractor and echoed the concern of his previous speakers.

Sri Basudeb Mahato of village Panjandi opined that job should be provided to Project Affected People (PAP) on priority basis and also expressed his reservation against recruitment of employee from other localities.

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Sri Nakul Mahato of village Doldoli stated that if no family members of a PAP is eligible for job then a certain allowance, for sustenance of life of the said family should be ensured by the project proponent.

Sri Keshab Mahato of village Khagrasol clarified that land has been given to industries and wanted employment in exchange of land as in this region agriculture is the only source of income.

Smt. Mangala Mahato of village Doldoli wanted to know about the fate of a land parcel which is meant for agriculture but falls within the project area.

Shri G. Mahato of village Barjori said they want industry.

Sri Sasadhar Mahato of village Borjori enquired about pollution abatement plan to prevent pollution from this proposed industry.

Sri Biplab Ghosh of Manikpara mentioned about the disparities in the land prices.

Sri Panchanan Roy of village Brahmani stated that they want industry but the industrial pollution should be controlled from the very beginning.

Sri Kalipada Mahato of village Chhotochuasol urged that the project proponent should directly interact with the people. He spoke in tune with his previous speakers.

At this juncture Shri S. Das, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General), Paschim Medinipur clarified again that this public hearing is for addressing the environmental concern of neighbourhood people. The land acquisition and rehabilitation issues are to be considered

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separately. He requested the project proponent to respond to the issues raised in the public hearing.

Sri Alo Sinha, President, Paschim Medinipur District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who is also a resident of Kharagpur, emphasized on the need for industrialization in this particular region where the said project has been proposed. He stressed that the agriculture in this particular region is primarily dependent on monsoon. The land is not fertile and usually is of single-crop nature. He thanked the project proponent for coming up with the idea to set up a factory in the region. He felt that livelihood issues can be sorted out by setting up of industries in this part of infertile land.

At this stage, Dr. D. Maulik, Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, again explained the scope of public hearing. She informed the audience that the detailed observation of WBPCB on draft proposal of M/s. Onkar Ispat Ltd. has been already communicated through letter dated 28.02.2011. She requested the project proponent to make adequate provision for water storage for ensuring use of surface water only and to incorporate a detail proposal on the water storage, distribution and use in EIA – EMP without compromising the need of keeping 33% of plant area for greenbelt development. Dr. D. Maulik also requested the project proponent to opt for rainwater harvesting through use of rainwater and creation of water bodies for surface recharging and to prepare the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with specific financial plan excluding any activity that is part of the industrial development itself. She requested the unit to incorporate all these issues during finalization of EIA-EMP for submission to MoEF, Government of India.

The project proponent Sri P. R. Goenka addressed the audience. He has mentioned that:

- (a) the water wastage would be minimized and water would be recycled as much as possible.
- (b) waste heat would be recovered for generation of power.
- (c) emission would be always kept within limit. Adequate arrangement shall be provided

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to arrest fugitive emission.

- (d) slags would be used for cement production.
- (e) adequate noise control measures would be installed.
- (f) 33% of plant area would be developed as greenbelt. The greenbelt shall be designed along the plant boundary and shall be designed to arrest emissions from plant area.
- (g) Non recovery type of Coke Oven shall be installed in this project.

In connection to employment issues, Sri P. R. Goenka mentioned that direct recruits would work in the plant. However, there would also be scope of employment generation in the neighbourhood due to expected developmental activity in and around the plant. He stated that though the local skilled and unskilled workers would be engaged for the project but for specialized job, experts might be brought from outside. However, industrial training centres would be set up for capacity enhancement of local youths. One reservoir would be constructed near the River Kangsabti. The industry would try to provide support to the health centres, construction of roads and other infrastructure development aspects.

In general, the public present in the hearing welcomed the project provided the Project Proponent address the issues discussed in the public hearing. The public hearing was concluded by Shri S. Das, IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General), Paschim Medinipur with thanks to the audience for active participation and peaceful co-operation for successful completion of the public hearing.

Sd/-

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

Sri Shubhanjan Das, IAS
Additional District Magistrate (General)
Paschim Medinipur