

Proceedings of the Public Hearing for the Proposed Expansion of Existing Steel Plant (SMS and MBF based) by adding 15,00,000 TPA Beneficiation-Cum-Pellet Plant with Producer Gas Plant at Shyamraipur, Gokulpur, Kharagpur, Dist. – Pashchim Medinipur, West Bengal. Proposed by M/s Rashmi Metaliks Limited, held on 11.11.2011 at 12 Noon at the meeting hall of S.D.O. (Jhargram), Dist – Pashchim Medinipur, West Bengal.

M/s Rashmi Metaliks Limited requested the West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Existing Steel Plant (SMS and MBF based) by adding 15,00,000 TPA Beneficiation-cum-Pellet Plant with Producer Gas Plant at Shyamraipur, Gokulpur, Kharagpur, Dist. – Pashchim Medinipur, West Bengal. As per the provisions of EIA Notification S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) and its subsequent amendments, Environmental Clearance of the said project is to be obtained from the MoEF, GoI, after conducting Public Hearing.

Accordingly, West Bengal Pollution Control Board after observing all formalities arranged the Public Hearing on 11.11.2011 at 12 Noon at the Meeting Hall of S.D.O. (Jhargram), District – Pashchim Medinipur, West Bengal. Shri Shubhanjan Das, I.A.S., Additional District Magistrate (General), Pashchim Medinipur, presided over the hearing. List of the panel members and the others present in the public hearing is enclosed with the hard copy of the proceedings.

The hearing started with a welcome note from Shri Shubhanjan Das, I.A.S., Additional District Magistrate (General), Pashchim Medinipur. He explained the scope and purpose of public hearings, which are conducted as part of Environmental Clearance Procedure. He requested the M/s Rashmi Metaliks Limited to present their proposal before the audience and to mention about the probable environmental impacts and abatement measures thereof. He also asked the WBPCB for their introductory comments.

Dr. Dipanjana Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB expressed gratitude to all present for taking part in the public hearing. She also briefed the audience about procedures to be followed for the public hearing.

Dr. A.K. Maitra on behalf of M/s Rashmi Metaliks Limited, narrated the draft proposal of M/s Rashmi Metaliks Limited for the proposed expansion of Existing Steel Plant (SMS and MBF based) by adding 15,00,000 TPA Beneficiation-cum-Pellet Plant with Producer Gas Plant at Shyamraipur, Gokulpur, Kharagpur, Dist. – Pashchim Medinipur, West Bengal. The Beneficiation-cum-Pellet Plant with the producer gas plant is proposed within the existing premises where the MBF, SMS, DI, Pig casting machines are already in operation. He described the project details and the proposed pollution control devices through Power Point presentation. His presentation indicated the likely environmental

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impacts arising out of the proposed activity and related pollution abatement measures. He discussed their emission control proposal. He mentioned about allocation of 5% of investment for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes and their need based analysis for implementing CSR.

As desired by the Additional District Magistrate (General), Pashchim Medinipur, the speakers from the audience began to express their views about the project and M/s Rashmi Metaliks Limited responded to the issues raised by every speaker, one at a time.

Sri Abhijit Maity of village Dhekia, welcomed the proposed project with all the commitments made by the Project proponent during their presentation. However, he mentioned that number of local recruits in the existing factory is very low. He opined that the unit should try to increase the number of local recruits even by reducing the automation. He suggested since there is only one ambulance available for community help, the number of ambulance and medical camps should have to be increased. The project proponent should also try to improve the road conditions and greenbelt expansion.

Shri S. Patwari informed the audience that approximately 70-75% of land losers have been recruited in the factory through formal recruitment procedure. He mentioned that although the project proponent had earlier contributed for road construction works for a certain stretch of road yet they would agree to come forward for additional contribution, if required. He also assured that one more ambulance-service would be provided for community help as an when required. However, he expressed his inability to accept the proposal for replacing the automation by employing the larger number of labour force as because in current competitive market scenario such approach is not a viable business proposition.

Sri Asit Ghosh of Khidirpur village supported the views expressed by the former speaker Sri Abhijit Maity. He informed that all land losers have not obtained jobs in the said factory. He further informed the members present in the public hearing that employees of the factory have to use a nonmetallic road that causes problem to the neighborhood residents. He requested for construction of metal road. He also suggested that M/s Rashmi Metaliks should contribute to improvement programmes of local primary schools.

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Shri S. Patwari assured that the said road would be converted to be metal road. The unit would also contribute to local school improvement work.

Sri Pradip Behra of village Inda, Kharagpur requested to ensure proper emission control measures in the upcoming expansion part of the unit to prevent health problems. He mentioned that the company should also provide job opportunities to the skilled workers, who reside in neighborhood locality. He stated that there is no children park available in this particular region and the industry may provide one.

Shri S. Patwari assured that the emission problem would not increase due to this proposed expansion. He stated that the local skilled job seekers should submit their applications to the personnel department of factory management for consideration. He also mentioned that in case, land is provided by the district authority, the company would surely develop a children park. He also expressed his willingness to take part in improvement of an existing children park, if any.

Shri Harendranath Maity, Baharapat village urged for ensuring alternate safe routes for workers because the employees are required to travel through National Highway to attend duties in night shifts. He expressed his concern about the 'project affected farmers' and land workers. He in tune with the first speaker Sri Abhijit Maity proposed for employing larger number of labour force. He pointed out a need for a concrete bridge for improvement of road transport. He suggested that the project proponent should contribute in construction of class room in nearby schools. He also appealed that the concerned departments of the administration should oversee that environmental management programmes so that environment is not damaged any further.

Mr. S. K. Patwari, the Group Chairman agreed to contribute to school building construction in surrounding areas as the unit had already constructed room in one of the local school. He again said that construction of alternate road leading to the factory would require additional land and therefore would require help from administration.

Shri Subrata Parui, Khidirpur, informed that five years ago they handed over the land for industrialization at Shyamraipur area but afterwards many of the land losers got no job opportunity in the upcoming industries in said region. He expected that if industrialisation is expedited then more and more people would get job.

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Mr. S. K. Patwari, the Group Chairman responded to this issue. He stated that most probably M/s. Rashmi Metaliks Ltd. provided maximum number of jobs to the land losers in this particular industrial region. He expressed his hope that recruitment of local people would increase during the future expansion.

Shri Naresh Chandra Jana, Uthpukur informed that although jobs have been provided to the land workers but no suitable job opportunity are available for the section of people at neighbourhood who are educated and/or who owned the land and who are seeking appropriate employment. Further, he informed about the discomfort of local people due to frequent movement of the employees of M/s. Rashmi Metaliks Ltd. through a *Kutchra* Road. He opined that a link road between Kharagpur and the industry would improve the connectivity. He also requested for the greenbelt expansion.

Shri Patwari stated that M/s. Rashmi Metaliks Ltd. principally agreed to employ the people who are found to fit to be for the job vacancies of the factory.

Shri Jiten Senapati of Baharapat village suggested that the road may also be routed through the back side of the factory and also urged for the greenbelt expansion.

Shri Patwari informed that the greenbelt is being expanded. The exact course of road development work shall be resolved through further discussion.

Shri Shubhanjan Das, I.A.S., Additional District Magistrate (General), Pashchim Medinipur concluded that M/s. Rashmi Metaliks Ltd. has agreed to make certain contribution to certain local development programme like providing additional ambulance, road development work etc. The entire episode is video graphed and the written proceedings would also be available in public domain. He proposed that under the leadership of SDO, Jhargram as the representative of the ADM (General), concerned BDO, Panchayat Pradhan or Savapati, representatives of M/s. Rashmi Metaliks Ltd. and maximum three representatives from the neighbourhood area would meet at the office of SDO, Jhargram in month of December to oversee the progress of work, which have been committed by Rashmi Group as part of CSR in the current public hearing in continuation to those, which have committed in earlier occasions. The three local representatives may represent three different localities and the Panchayat Pradhan may recommend them. This

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committee shall periodically meet and interact to review the CSR activities. The unit reported that they had already deposited money for road construction at Kharagpur region and therefore, the SDO; Kharagpur would also be invited to join the committee. The meeting schedule would be circulated beforehand. The utilization status of the fund created in this case and the progress of work would be reviewed and shared with people and the industry to avoid any miscommunication. The general administration would take active part in developmental work in that region.

Dr. Dipanjana Maulik, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB pointed that the issues which were communicated by the WBPCB through letter dated 30.08.2011 should be addressed and incorporated in the final EIA-EMP report. She also requested the project proponent to opt for rain water harvesting through surface recharge to reduce fresh water consumption. However but the ground water recharging is not permitted at the industrial premises in West Bengal. The project proponent was requested to include the potential impact the upcoming activities the like work of Mini blast Furnace 2 or Sinter Plant 2 in the air quality prediction cases. As shown during the presentation, the Beneficiation-cum-Pellet Plant with the producer gas plant is being proposed within the existing premises where MBF and SMS are in operation. The area allocation to the Beneficiation-cum-Pellet Plant should be planned in such a manner that the green belt is not compromised. The Final EIA-EMP report should address all the issues referred above.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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

Shri Shubhanjan Das, I.A.S
Additional District Magistrate (General),
Dist. Pashchim Medinipur