

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF STEEL PLANT (GOPALPUR UNIT-II) BY INSTALLATION OF 2X15 MT INDUCTION FURNACE, 1X30 MT ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE, 1X30 MT LADDLE REFINING FURNACE, 2X3 STRAND CCM, 1X30 TPH ROLLING MILL AND 2X9 MVA FERRO ALLOY PLANT FOR PRODUCTION OF TMT BARS AND FERRO ALLOYS AT BAMUNARA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, GOPALPUR, PO – DURGAPUR, BLOCK – KANKSA, DIST – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL PROPOSED BY M/S. SHYAM STEEL INDUSTRIES LTD, HELD ON 14.04.2010 AT 11:30 HRS. IN THE MEETING HALL OF KANKSA PANCHAYAT SAMITY, DIST – BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL

M/S Shyam Steel Industries Ltd., Bamunara Industrial Estate, Gopalpur, PO – Durgapur, Block – Kanksa, Dist – Burdwan, submitted an application to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Steel Plant (Gopalpur Unit-II) by installation of 2x15 MT Induction Furnace, 1x30 MT Electric Arc Furnace, 1x30 MT Ladle Refining Furnace, 2x3 Strand CCM, 1x30 TPH Rolling Mill and 2x9 MVA Ferro Alloy Plant for production of TMT Bars and Ferro Alloys. 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 14th April, 2010 at 11.30 hrs. in the Meeting Hall of Kanksa 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 S. Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer (Durgapur Regional Office) WBPCB. He explained about the provisions of the above stated MoEF notification and also informed the audience about the draft proposal of M/S Shyam Steel Industries Ltd. for the proposed expansion of Steel Plant (Gopalpur Unit-II) by installation of 2x15 MT Induction Furnace, 1x30 MT Electric Arc Furnace, 1x30 MT Ladle Refining Furnace, 2x3 Strand CCM, 1x30 TPH Rolling Mill and 2x9 MVA Ferro Alloy Plant for production of TMT Bars and Ferro Alloys at Bamunara Industrial Estate, Gopalpur, PO – Durgapur, Block – Kanksa, Dist – Burdwan, West Bengal. 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.

Sri Joydip Ganguly, M/s. Shyam Steel Industries Ltd., 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 social

responsibility programmes like setting up vocational training institute, eye camp, recreational activity, plantation etc. He has also mentioned that they would generate employment for local people and take neighboring villagers into confidence in each stage of project.

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 Biswanath Chatterjee of Bamunara village, welcomed the proposed 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 Bamunara area leading to serious water scarcity in the locality. He also apprehended that the proposed ferro-alloy units may cause serious environmental degradation and requested the PP to take appropriate abatement measures in this regard.

Sri Sanat Acharya of Bamunara village supported the views expressed by Sri Biswanath Chatterjee.

Sri Anupam Ganguly of village Bamunara acknowledged the earlier endeavors of the PP regarding CSR activities in their locality. He also expressed his concern regarding indiscriminate withdrawal of ground water and potential air pollution from the proposed ferro-alloy units. He requested the project proponent and the local administration to arrange for alternative water resources for the local people and to ensure proper pollution control measures in the upcoming expansion part of the unit.

Sri Pradip Goswami, Bamunara apprehended serious environmental pollution from process activities of proposed ferro-alloy plants. He however welcomed expansion project, ensuring no further environmental hazards.

Sri Sarup Goswami of Bamunara village, Sri Swapan Akure of village Biharpur, Sri Sajal Roy of Bamunara, Sri Narayan Shyam of village Bamunara and Sri Gautam Kumar Nayak of Kanksa welcomed the expansion project as it would benefit the socio-economic growth of the locality by creating direct/indirect employment. However they expressed their concern regarding indiscriminate depletion of ground water. They also requested the project proponent to ensure proper pollution control measures in the upcoming expansion part of the unit.

Sri Hemanta Kumar Nayek of Bamunara village discouraged expansion project of ferro-alloy unit in Bamunara area.

Sri Surojit Mondal of village Khatpukur welcomed the expansion project as it would benefit the socio-economic growth of the locality by creating direct/indirect employment. However they expressed their concern regarding indiscriminate depletion of ground water. They requested the ADM, Asansol to take necessary action to arrange for water supply from river Damodar to their locality. He also requested the project proponent to ensure proper pollution control measures in the upcoming expansion part of the unit and to initiate serious effort regarding extensive plantation in and around their unit. He further requested the ADM,

Asansol to constitute a monitoring committee involving local administration, WBPCB and local people to monitor the compliance status of environmental norms by the industries located in and around Bamunara area.

Sri Janardan Chatterjee, Savapati, Kanksa Panchayat Samity, thanked the local habitants for creating a congenial environment for industrialization in the locality. He also expressed his concern about serious water scarcity in the locality and requested the PP to initiate action for Rain Water Harvesting. He ensured all sorts of logistic supports from the Panchayat Samity regarding extensive plantation in and around the locality. He also welcomed the expansion project of the unit maintaining all environmental norms.

Sri Saresh Ankure, MLA Kanksa welcomed the expansion project as it would benefit the socio-economic growth of the locality by creating direct/indirect employment.

Sri Biswajit Dutta, ADM, Asansol requested officials of the Pollution Control Board and also the representatives of M/S Shyam Steel Industries Ltd. to respond to villagers queries. Sri S. Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer (Durgapur Regional Office), WBPCB described the potential of pollution from such industries and emphasized the need for installation of appropriate pollution control technologies.

Sri S.K.Bhargava of M/s. Shyam Steel Industries 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 will not abstract ground water without prior permission from competent authority 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. 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 S. Bhattacharya
Environmental Engineer
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Sri Biswajit Dutta
Additional District Magistrate, Asansol