Memo No. 291-WPBA/Complaint(2)/2009  

Date: 04/11/2015

DIRECTION

WHEREAS, Asansol Division, Eastern Railway (hereinafter referred to as the unit) is engaged in unloading activities at the Asansol Goods Shed Siding near Apcar Garden, P.O.- Asansol, P.S.- Asansol (S), Dist.- Burdwan.

AND WHEREAS, the unit was called for hearing by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) on several occasions following repeated public complaints from the residents of Apcar Garden, Kalyanpur Karunamoyee, Vivekananda Pally close to the Asansol Goods Shed Siding alleging severe dust pollution due to unloading of coal, iron ore, clinker etc. since last few years. Accordingly, the Board had issued several directions to Asansol Goods Shed Siding, Asansol Division, Eastern Railway.

AND WHEREAS, the unit was inspected by the Board officials on 13/04/2015. During inspection coal and iron ore unloading activity was going on and the unit representative informed the Board officials that coal unloading activity has been decreased by 40%. Water sprinkling arrangement is present, but no reuse and recycling system was found and tree plantation was found to be inadequate. At the south side, wall height was increased upto 5m from G.L. with tin sheet and it is 200m long, but height of wall at the north side of the goods shed was not increased. Length of the guard wall has not been increased in either side. Construction work of Barachak goods shed has been completed and started functioning since July 2014.

AND WHEREAS, the unit was further inspected by the Board officials on 30/07/2015. During inspection no unloading/handling activity was going on and it was reported that the augmentation work of Topsi Goods Shed is in progress. Approach road condition was found to be very poor.

AND WHEREAS, the unit was called for a hearing at the Head office of the Board on 08/10/2015.

AND WHEREAS, the representatives of the unit appearing in the hearing agreed with the above mentioned observations of the Board. Copy of the inspection report of Board officials & photographs was handed over to them. They submitted that following initiatives were taken by the Railway Authority to curb pollution in the area:

i. Average monthly twenty (20) inward rakes have been dealt during last three (3) months, i.e., from July to September, 2015 against average monthly 42 inward rakes dealt during July to September, 2014, i.e., 52% decrease in rakes.
ii. Handling of coal rakes have been partially diverted to Barachak goods shed.
iii. Construction of Topsi goods shed line no. 2 is expected to be completed by February, 2016 and then some iron ore rakes will be diverted to that shed.
iv. Clinker and slag handling have been totally shifted to Barachak goods shed.
v. Water sprinkler and mobile water tankers have been provided for dust suppression.
vi. Sufficient plantation has been done.
vii. Boundary walls will be constructed wherever necessary, within six months after preparation of estimates.
The representatives of the Railway Authority were clearly informed during the course of hearing that the Board has provided sufficient opportunity to the Railway Authority to minimize pollution in the Asansol Goods shed area and National Human Rights Commission has sought action taken report from the Board in this issue. Further violation of the Board’s direction may attract strict regulatory action.

NOW, THEREFORE, considering the aforementioned facts, the Board hereby directs M/s. Asansol Goods Shed Siding, Asansol Division, Eastern Railway located near Apcar Garden, P.O.- Asansol, P.S.- Asansol (S), Dist.- Burdwan to comply with the following:

1. **That**, construction/augmentation of Topsi goods shed should be completed by December, 2015 so that handling of coal and iron ore rakes can be further reduced at Asansol goods shed after completion of the said work.

2. **That**, construction of guard wall wherever necessary and raising the height of entire Guard wall must be completed within December, 2015.

3. **That**, condition of approach roads must be improved at the earliest.

4. **That**, sufficient tree plantation along the periphery shall be arranged.

5. **That**, water sprinkling and spraying systems must be operated during material handling activity.

The Environmental Engineer, Asansol Regional Office of the State Board is requested to keep strict vigil on the unit and if the unit is again found to operate violating the Board’s direction, the Board will be at liberty to take strict regulatory action.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Operation & Execution Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board