WHEREAS, M/s. BDG Metal & Power Ltd., operating its ferro alloy unit having one submerged electric arc furnace of capacity 9 MVA at Plasto Steel Park, Kadasole, Barjora, Dist. Bankura was called for hearing on 21/12/2009 at the Head Office of the Board for gross non-compliance of environmental norms by the industry.

WHEREAS, there is strong public resentment against the operation of the sponge iron and ferro alloy units in Barjora area of the Bankura alleging high level of air pollution from the operation of such units. The public resentment has been recorded while conducting public hearing for setting up of new sponge iron units. The environmental performance of ferro alloy units was also mentioned in this regard.

WHEREAS, inspection carried out by the Board officials on 04/06/2009 revealed that the unit was found operating the submerged arc furnace keeping the emission control system non-functional, resulting in high emission from the stack.

WHEREAS, the unit was inspected by the Board officials again on 01/12/2009. It was observed that the submerged arc furnace was in operation without the emission control system being functional resulting in considerable emission from the bypass stack.

WHEREAS, the Director of the industry appearing in the hearing squarely agreed to the observations made by the Board officials and submitted through a stamp paper undertaking admitting the lapse as mentioned above and made a commitment to take effective steps in future for not repeating the occurrence of such omission.

NOW THEREFORE, in due consideration of the report of inspection, the public resentment against the sponge iron and ferro alloy units in Barjora area and submission of the Director made during the hearing, M/s. BDG Metal & Power Ltd., is hereby directed as under :-

1. That, the industry is allowed a time of one month from the date of issuance of this direction for complete modification / upgradation of the emission control system for total compliance of the environmental norms. The industry has to submit an action plan in this regard within seven days from the issuance of this direction.
2. That, the industry should submit a Pollution Cost of Rs.2.00 lakhs (Rupees Two lakhs only) by a Demand Draft payable at service branch at Kolkata / Banker’s Cheque for the above non-compliance.

3. That, the industry should also submit the Bank Guarantee (proforma enclosed) of Rs.1.00 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) valid for twelve months in favour of the WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD as a guarantee for compliance of the directions within the stipulated time period.

The Pollution Cost and the Bank Guarantee, as referred above, should be submitted within fifteen days from the date of issuance of this direction.

Any non-compliance of the above direction, the Board may initiate stricter regulatory action including forfeiture of the Bank Guarantee amount and closure of the unit.

This order has the approval of the Competent Authority of the Board and is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder.

By Order,

Sd/-

(Dr. D. Chakraborty)

Chief Scientist & Head – Technical Cell

West Bengal Pollution Control Board