WHEREAS, M/s. Ramnagar Colliery (OCP), SAIL (hereinafter referred to as the industry), located at P.O.- Ramnagar, P.S.- Kulti, Dist.- Burdwan, Pin – 713 324 is engaged in mining of coal(open cast). The industry has three quarries i.e. Salanpur-C, Laikdih & Duburdih with installed production capacity of coal - 80,000 MT/month.

AND WHEREAS, earlier the Board had received public complaint against the industry and a hearing was arranged by the Board on 15/11/2011 at the chamber of ADM, Asansol involving both the industry and the complainants wherein the industry was directed as follows:

1. to submit up-to-date records of vibration due to blasting to DGMS
2. to check the status of fire in the coal seam
3. to shift the coal depot and weigh bridge to a safe location
4. to verify the health records of the local inhabitants from ICDS
5. to create buffer zone of plantation surrounding the village

AND WHEREAS, inspection of the industry was carried out by the officials of WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (hereinafter referred to as the Board) on 13/08/13. The following observations were made during inspection:-

- The loading and unloading points of Laikdih quarry have been shifted to Salanpur Depot. Salanpur Depot is now used as common loading and unloading point of Salanpur-C & Laikdih quarries.
- The old place for loading and unloading point of Laikdih was filled up by soil and the total area was covered with plantation. But the trees planted last year died. The representative of the industry informed that they have made an agreement with the Forest Department, GoWB for plantation programme.
- The soil filling process was found in progress. Water tanker was observed at the quarry.

AND WHEREAS, the ‘Consent to Operate’ of the industry is valid up to 31/01/2014.

AND WHEREAS, the industry was called for a hearing on 20.09.13 at the head office of the Board following a mass complaint received from the inhabitants of Ramnagar Colliery.

AND WHEREAS, the complainants appeared in the hearing and complained that their houses got damaged due to deep hole blasting in the mines. They stated that dry drilling instead of wet drilling are carried out by the industry for blasting and the weigh bridge has not yet been shifted from the present site. The complainants mainly complained of fire hazard and vibration problem. The technical committee requested the complainants to approach the competent authorities like Director General of Mine Safety regarding the fire and vibration problems from the OCP.
AND WHEREAS, the General Manager of the industry appearing in the hearing submitted that they have taken several steps to minimize the environmental pollution in the mines area. He also submitted that they would take further necessary steps to reduce the environmental pollution in the locality in consultation with the inhabitants of Ramnagar Colliery.

NOW, THEREFORE, considering the above, M/s. Ramnagar Colliery (OCP), SAIL located at P.O.- Ramnagar, P.S.- Kulti, Dist.- Burdwan, Pin – 713 324 is hereby directed as follows:

1. That, the industry shall operate maintaining the environmental norms.

2. That, the industry shall submit a comprehensive action plan to the Board within 15 days from hereof regarding minimization of dust pollution, development of buffer zone by plantation, wet drilling, shifting of weigh bridge to a safe location.

The Environmental Engineer, Asansol Sub-Regional Office of the State Board is requested to keep vigil over the industry and if the industry is found to violate the direction of the Board, stricter regulatory order will be issued.

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