

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CLUSTER 3 (3 MIXED MINES) HAVING AN EXISTING PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 3.33/3.97 (NORMATIVE/PEAK) WITH AN INCREASE IN MINE LEASE AREA FROM 1628.0 HA TO 1744 HA (DABOR OCP; REDUCTION IN AREA FROM 1063 HA TO 1056 HA; BONJEMEHARI OCP; INCREASE IN AREA FROM 304 HA TO 518 HA; SANGRAMGARH OCP; REDUCTION IN AREA FROM 261 HA TO 200 HA) LOCATED IN RANIGANJ, DISTRICT – PASCHIM BARDHAMAN, WEST BENGAL BY M/S EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED, HELD ON 14.01.2025 AT 12.00 HRS AT THE PLAYGROUND OF THE RHS COLONY UNDER DENDUA PANCHAYAT, SALANPUR BLOCK, DIST - PASCHIM BARDHAMAN, WEST BENGAL.

M/s. Eastern Coalfields Limited had applied to West Bengal Pollution Control Board to conduct a public hearing for the proposed expansion of Cluster 3 (3 mixed mines) having existing production capacity of 3.33/3.97 (normative/peak) with increase in mine lease area from 1628.0 ha to 1744 ha (Dabor OCP; reduction in area from 1063 ha to 1056 ha; Bonjemehari OCP; increase in area from 304 ha to 518 ha; Sangramgarh OCP; reduction in area from 261 ha to 200 ha) located in Raniganj, District – Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.

As per EIA notification S.O. 1533 (E) dated 14th September 2006 of the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt of India, 'Environment Clearance' (EC) for the said proposed expansion project is required from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt of India after conducting the public hearing.

Accordingly, after observing all formalities, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) conducted the public hearing on 14.01.2025 at 12.00 hrs at the playground of the RHS colony under Dendua Panchayat, Salanpur Block, Dist - Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.

Sri Aranya Banerjee, Additional District Magistrate (L & LR), Paschim Bardhaman, presided over the public hearing.

A list of the members and others present in the public hearing is enclosed.

The Public Hearing proceedings started with a welcome note from Shri Sudip Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer, Asansol Regional Office of West Bengal Pollution Control Board. After explaining the provisions of EIA notifications and the procedure of public hearings, Shri Bhattacharya informed the audience about the proposal of M/s. Eastern Coalfields Limited. He also informed the audience about the PowerPoint presentation to be delivered by the Project Proponent regarding its proposal. He further informed the gathering that the entire public hearing procedure would be noted down and video recorded. He then requested the project proponent to deliver the PowerPoint presentation.

Representative Shri Sourav Gangopadhyay – Deputy Manager of M/s CMPDIL on behalf of M/s Eastern Coalfield Limited, then started the PowerPoint presentation on the proposed expansion of cluster 3. He mentioned the likely environmental impacts arising out of the project as well as the proposed pollution abatement measures. He narrated the proposed expansion project details, details of demography & population profile. He presented environmental scenarios, including air quality, water quality, land use, environmental impact, noise pollution, and the corporate policy for environmental management. He explained that ECL is abiding by all conservation measures for land, air, and water. He mentioned the plantation program of ECL,

rehabilitation policy, corporate social responsibility, and Remediation and the Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan (NCRAP).

After completion of the technical presentation, Sudip Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer, WBPCB, asked the audience for their queries, suggestions, views, etc., on the proposed project. During the discussion, the villagers present in the public hearing made questions/suggestions with respect to the proposed expansion project, which are mentioned below:

Shri Manoj Tewari, a villager of Dendua Gram panchayat, first welcomes the proposal for ECL's mine expansion project. He then requested ECL to take measures for the employment of local youths and make necessary efforts to sustain and increase plantations upon discussion with different local Gram Panchayat Pradhans. He also requested the repair of ICDS centers and the construction of new ICDS centers where required. He also asked for the development of an existing big pond at the Sidhabari location with a plantation surrounding it. He then stated that ECL has been doing great work in the local area under the CSR scheme. He then requested to focus on providing agriculture equipment and supporting agriculture for the development of this area. He then again appreciated the works undertaken in this area under CSR by ECL Salanpur Area.

Shri Sachin Nag, a villager of Basudevpur Jemari Gram Panchayat, stated that the proposed project was a good one and welcomed it. He requested electrification in the villages located in and around 2-3 km of the mine, supply of water, and help in the development of education.

Shri Anil Dhibar Pradhan of Basudevpur Jemari Gram Panchayat stated that ECL should emphasize the maintenance of the plantation projects undertaken by ECL with proper fencing and watering. He also requested infrastructure development, such as providing benches and computers to the ICDS centers and repairing them, as well as distribution of sports materials and development of sports grounds.

At this point, Shri Sachin Nag, a villager of Basudevpur Jemari Gram Panchayat, again stood up and said that the authorities should consider the matter of pond development from private land and not only from vested land. He further stated that Bonbiddi village is getting more support for development because of siding, and he requested similar types of support at their villages.

Shri Fuchu Bauri Pradhan of Salanpur Gram Panchayat thanked ECL for the construction of a community hall at Salanpur village under Salanpur Gram Panchayat. He requested to consider the infrastructure development of Kalyaneswari High/Primary School, such as providing benches, boundary wall construction, high mast lights at different roads under their Gram Panchayat, providing drinking water facilities to the villagers, development of shed at Dhundabad Samsan/Graveyard and development of ICDS under their Gram Panchayat as requested by previous villagers. He also welcomed the proposed project as presented.

Shri Dilip Mahato, a villager of Srirampur village, requested the construction of a village road and community hall and the completion of an under-construction/incomplete temple.

Smt. Jharna Karmakar, a villager of Salanpur village, requested ECL to provide dustbins and construct a community toilet in their village.

Shri Vijay Kumar Singh, a villager of Dendua panchayet, requested that lights be provided at the existing cricket ground near the left bank so that day-night tournaments may be arranged.

Shri Madan Rajak, a villager of Jemari Gram Panchayat, requested the development of sports grounds and the construction of a community hall near the Ramdi colony of ECL. He also asked for the rehabilitation of project-affected families before the shifting of their existing homestead required for mining operations.

At this point, Shri Sudip Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, informed the audience that if no questions were further raised, he would request the project proponent to answer the queries.

However, no one raised any further issues/comments regarding the proposed project. As such, Shri Bhattacharya proceeded further and requested that the project proponent address the issues raised by the villagers.

Shri Y P K Singh, the General Manager of Salanpur Area, ECL, greeted the authorities from the West Bengal Pollution Control Board and District Authorities. He stated that he had recorded the questions and would like to answer them one by one. He then submitted the following: -

On the issue of Plantation –

ECL Salanpur Area takes up all plantation projects in coordination with Green Projects Wings of West Bengal Forest Department, where the latter executes the project and tries to maintain 80% survival of the plants by proper watering and gap filling and replacement of the required plants.

On the issue of ICDS –

ECL Salanpur Area will consider the development of ICDS upon discussion with local Gram Panchayat Pradhans and ECL higher authorities under CSR or any other schemes. ECL Salanpur Area will also make every effort to consider providing benches and constructing a boundary wall for ICDS, as mentioned in the hearing by the villagers.

On the issue of Ponds –

ECL Salanpur Area has already developed ponds in various villages in this cluster. However, the land for the development of the pond may be provided by villagers by donating to the panchayat or by the formation of a village-level committee. ECL will make an effort to consider the requests under various schemes.

On the issue of Agricultural Equipment –

ECL Salanpur Area maintains good relations with the villagers of this cluster through their officials in the CSR, Environment, Agents, and Personnel Departments. He said that ECL would provide agricultural equipment for the use of local farmers in this cluster.

On the issue of Electricity –

ECL Salanpur Area has installed lights along the coal transport road, and by connecting lines from this installed setup, other lights may be installed in local villages. He further stated that the possibility of installation of solar lights will be explored where such a connection could not be made/available.

On the issue of Water Supply –

ECL Salanpur Area has already provided a water tractor with a tanker to the Salanpur Block office for use in supplying water to local villagers. He added that ECL will make efforts to supply water to the villages so that there will be no crisis of drinking water in this local area of this cluster.

On the issue of Sports –

ECL Salanpur Area will provide sports equipment and install a lighting system for the sports grounds under the CSR scheme, as requested during the public hearing.

On the issue of School Boundary & Benches –

ECL Salanpur Area is already supporting various local schools by developing infrastructure like kitchens, labs, and libraries, as well as providing benches. The effort will continue as per the demands of local villagers.

On the issue of Road –

ECL Salanpur Area is already constructing various concrete roads in local villages. It will continue to make efforts for such type of construction in other villages as per demand in this cluster. He assured the audience that road, lighting, and drinking water would not be a problem anywhere in the area.

On the issue of Dustbin and Community Toilet –


ECL Salanpur Area will take up the issue as soon as possible for the distribution of dustbins and the construction of community toilets.

On the issue of Ground Development –


ECL Salanpur Area has already identified locations for the development of ground for the youth and children and the development of a community hall at Ramdi. He also added that ECL will take up the development of the grounds in a phased manner upon discussion with the concerned Gram Panchayat Pradhan.

He further stated that ECL will make every effort to ease the difficulties in the Salanpur area. He expressed his hope that together, they can make the area better. Finally, he thanked the local villagers for their suggestions during the public hearing, which will help ECL identify the needs of the local people and will also help improve the mining operation in the future.

Thereafter, Shri Sudip Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer & In Charge, Asansol Regional Office, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, requested the project proponent to consider the requests/demands/suggestions made by the audience and implement them. He then thanked all and wished the project a success. Finally, he concluded the session with permission from Sri Aranya Banerjee, Additional District Magistrate (L & LR), Paschim Bardhaman.



Sudip Bhattacharya
Environmental Engineer,
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Shri. Aranya Banerjee, WBCS (Exe.)
Additional District Magistrate (LR),
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