

Report on Identifying and Mapping of Industries of Kolkata Metropolitan Area

Conducted by: Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority

Sponsored by: West Bengal Pollution Control Board

SYNOPSIS

One of the four metropolitan centres of India, Kolkata and its surroundings are equal to any city in the country in charm, variety and interest. Like many other cities, its roots lie in the European expansion of the seventeenth century. It is known as one of the greatest colonial cities of the Orient. Descendants of the fortune-seekers who flocked from across the globe to participate in Kolkata's eighteenth- and nineteenth-century trading boom remain conspicuous in its cosmopolitan blend of communities. However, the mass migrations of refugees, in the twentieth-century, which resulted in massive suffering and spoilt the city.

The provinces of Bengal suffered the most as they were partitioned between the two new countries. The eastern half of Bengal became East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) with Dhaka as the provincial capital. The western half became the Indian state of West Bengal with Kolkata as the capital. With more than half of its hinterland gone, Kolkata got a major blow. The jute growing areas went to East Pakistan while the factories were in Kolkata and its suburbs. There were major riots, killings and large-scale migration. Kolkata was in turmoil and trouble for Kolkata continued with millions of refugees pouring in from East Pakistan. The Bangladesh independence movement around the same time (1971) led to another huge influx of refugees from East Pakistan into West Bengal and Kolkata. A leftist movement called the Naxalite movement (named after its birthplace Naxalbari, W. Bengal) gathered huge support amongst the frustrated urban youth. The uprising was clamped down with a heavy hand leading to widespread middle class resentment. Gradually because of space congestion and urban sprawl, residential space and industrial space began co-habiting and the usual problems of a developing state in transition began. A lot of time was also wasted on policies and decisions to come. In the process the actual industrial scenario of the state began to fade out, and was soon obscure. The period of uncertainty, instability and lawlessness led to an economic decline as major companies and business houses shifted their investments and offices from Kolkata to other states.

The process of industrialization in the state of West Bengal has witnessed the last few years as a reckoning period for resurgence and rejuvenation of the industrial scenario, availing full advantage of the liberalization policies though with ideological reservations in some areas. The State has received overwhelming response both from domestic investors and overseas investors in various areas. However the method of utilising the land along with its building, plant, machinery and stock of units were not streamlined adding to the bottlenecks.

The industrial policy statement of July 1980 recognized the need of preserving the ecological balances and improving living conditions in the urban centres of the country. On the basis of this policy, the expansion of the existing industries and setting up of new industrial complexes within the limits of a metropolitan city and the larger towns are not permitted. Presently, industries are being located on the basis of availability of raw materials, human resources proximity, and access to the market, transport facilities and such other techno-economic consideration without adequate attention to the environmental considerations, which is also recognized an important criteria for siting of an industry. This effectively leads to deteriorating living conditions in the metropolitans and also in the large towns where most of the industrial operation are very much within the residential areas.

Industrial Development significantly contributes towards the economic growth of a country. However, the industrial progress brings along with it a host of environmental problems. Many of these problems could be avoided if industries were located on the basis of environmental considerations. Injudicious siting of industries can seriously effect the environmental features such as air, water, land, flora,

fauna, Human settlements and health of the people. The entrepreneurs should be fully, aware of these implications and should take necessary steps while setting up or during operation of the industry, so as to minimize the possible adverse effects on the environmental resources and on quality of life. Often entrepreneurs find it very costly to install pollution control and other mitigation measures, once the industry is already set up. As such, the preventive steps are mainly required at the time of siting rather than going on for a corrective measure at the later stage.

To prevent air, water and soil pollution, arising out of industrial processes, the industrial license procedures are required to be followed by the entrepreneurs before setting up the industry and it is necessary to obtain the clearance from Central! Sate Pollution Control Board in regard to air and water. These Boards stipulate with air (gases) and water (effluent) emanating from the industries. These industries should conform to certain quality standards about the gases and effluent fixed by the Board. However, these stipulations do not prevent the industry from affecting the total environment by wrong siting. The cumulative effect of number of industries in a particular place is also not being studied in large Metropolis. With the result, an industry or industrial area over a period of time could cause significant damage to the surrounding environment and ecological features. It is commonly noticed that there is a change in the pattern of production during last few decades, as for example, the increase in the number of plastic and toxic industrialized products. These have affected the market quite largely. Most of the Cities and Metropolis are presently suffering due to such changes, which has not only deteriorated the environment of the residential areas as a whole but is also the cause of fire and other hazards during last few years. Sometimes polluting industries are asked to close down or served with a notice of shifting outside the residential areas, but the Authorities do not spell out the remedial.. measures or the relocation procedures clearly. It is difficult to have knowledge of the total scenario of the pollution being caused by siting of such industries within residential area. To meet the need, the Govt. of West Bengal, Dept of Environment and West Bengal pollution control board with associations from different Development and Implementing Authorities, decided to map all industries in the entire Kolkata metropolitan area for assessing the present status so that a strategy for relocation could be evolved. Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority was assigned to take up the job and go for a polluting potential assessment covering an entire area of about 1700 sq km. Environment cell of KMDA took up a pilot project during September 1999 to January 2000. The Ward number 1, 2 & 6 of KMC were selected on the basis of the concentration of the polluting industries, like Bleaching and Dyeing, Plastic processing etc and Ward number 37 along with the adjoining areas of Borough III & IV was selected because of number of industrial cum commercial units within the residential zone. Once the pilot project was successfully implemented, the work was extended to seven areas of entire KMA. An approximate number of 15000 industrial units were surveyed and a primary database was created through a professional body. The analysis of the entire data system has been broadly divided into 7 geographical regions. They are:

- Kolkata Municipal corporation with 141 wards
- Howrah Municipal Corporation with 50 wards
- Howrah district within KMA with 2 municipalities and 6 gram Panchayat
- Hooghly district within KMA with 11 municipalities and 6 gram Panchayat
- South 24 Parganas district within KMA with 5 municipalities and 5 gram Panchayat

Conclusion & Recommendations:

The Industrial Census in KMC has been a non tiring effort since last two years and also involved number of associations organizations, institutions like Chamber of Commerce and Universities. Series of lectures were given in different places in different occasions during the process of survey for awareness and generation of consciousness for a in-situ pollution control devices in the industries as well as in the adjoining areas. Different sectors responsible for development in the urban and rural areas, were also involved during the process of survey so that a required decision can be taken by appropriate authority during any part of implementation of Environment Management in and around the city. The following observations and initiatives are being suggested as a primary requirement for implementing the findings arose from the study:

- ☞ It is required to publish a sector wise data collected from different types of industries and the respective associations need to be informed with the findings and participatory, management policy need to be evolved from this.
- ☞ The Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and the Rural local bodies are to be intimated about such survey and the findings of this report. The sensitive areas identified in their respective governing zones need to be placed in front of them and the decision making process for a better environmental management should be initiated.
- ☞ District Magistrates and the other concerned District Officials need to be intimated about the findings of the report specially with reference to the critical areas.
- ☞ Department of Finance needs a special involvement including the Department of Commercial Taxes so that a perfect co-relation s can be made in the annual turnover reflected in the report and the taxation being imposed in the respective units.
- ☞ Department of Fire Services IS required to be intimated about the areas which is specially fire prone due to storage of different inflammable materials in the residential areas.
- ☞ KMDA being the sole Planning & Development Authority of the surveyed area need to be entrusted to frame a proper relocation strategy of the different polluting sectors of industries.
- ☞ It may be highlighted that wastes being generated in the case of liquid and solid needs a special reference for its management in the local level as Solid Waste Management including the Bio-medical Waste has to be taken up in priority as per a decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It may have to looked into with a special initiative;
- ☞ A detail database of the Kolkata Road System is also available with KMDA. A report on "Location of Industries in different Roads" can also be published as an Annexure, if required;

It can be stated as a general recommendations that as such types of initiative for assessing the industries census, has not been done in any of the metro cities. This can also be intimated to Central Pollution Control Board so that a similar study and analysis can be made for other cities. It is however felt that such analysis will never bring out the information in respect to the total pollution or the polluting capacities of the industrial units in the city. These will always reflect the information of 75 to 80% of the industrial location with the details and the product stored and waste management capacities. It is also necessary to have an annual sample check up atleast for two to three years of time after the survey has been completed, so that the changes can be monitored and a subsequent report with such changes can also be brought out.

The complete project report is available at the:

**Library
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