



WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)

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Memo No. 1626-WPBA/Complaint(2)/2009

Date: 06/09/2010

DIRECTION

WHEREAS, M/s. Asansol Goods Shed Siding, Asansol Division, Eastern Railway (hereinafter referred to as the industry) operates its railway goods shed siding at Near Apcar Garden, P.O.+ P.S.–Asansol, Dt.–Burdwan and it is engaged in loading and unloading of coal, minerals, clinkers, food grains etc.

WHEREAS, the said industry was called for a hearing by the **WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD** (hereinafter referred to as the Board) on 24/06/2010 in response to a public complaint lodged by the Manager, Food Corporation of India for creating dust pollution and contamination of food grains.

WHEREAS, the industry was earlier inspected on 10/11/2009. Huge emission was observed during loading of clinker as well as movement of loaded vehicles. The internal roads were observed to be very dusty. Water sprinkling arrangement was not observed. Tree plantation along the boundary wall was observed to be inadequate. The internal road for vehicular movement inside the goods shed was not metalled / concreted. One water tank was observed which was stated to have some problem.

WHEREAS, the industry was re-inspected on 07/04/2010 by Board's officials and it was observed that unloading of coal wagon was being carried out. Dense black emission of dust was observed. The goods shed siding area was found full of dust. So it is evident that the railway authorities did not take any measures for controlling the pollution problem except for spraying of water by mobile van which was also found to be inadequate. The Railway authorities were earlier directed vide order dated 24/04/2009 to adopt a time bound action plan to mitigate the pollution problem as per the guidelines prepared by an Expert Committee which they failed to fully comply with.

WHEREAS, during the hearing on 24/06/2010, the Railway Authority submitted that they had taken some steps for minimization of dust emission in the siding area. Rupees Six Crores have already been sanctioned for improvement and development of the siding area. The internal roads as also the roads leading to the siding will be totally metalled / concreted. Plantation has been done on a large scale basis. Some water sprinkling arrangement has been provided for specific goods items.

NOW, THEREFORE, considering the observation of the inspecting officials and submission made by the complainants and the Railway Authority, the Board is pleased to hereby direct Eastern Railway Authority as follows :

1. **That** the railway authority shall submit a detailed time-bound action plan for minimization of pollution from the railway siding within one (01) month from hereof.
2. **That** the railway authority shall stop the loading and unloading operation of those items which lead to large scale emission of dust.

The Railway authorities shall also consider about shifting the dust generating activities to another area, remote in location and with adequate buffer zone provision so that the problem of pollution can be minimized to a large extent.

This direction is issued in exercise of the power conferred under 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/-

(Subrata Ghosh)

Chief Engineer

Operation & Execution Cell

West Bengal Pollution Control Board