

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 31-08-2016 AT 11.00AM AT KANDSAR PRIMARY SCHOOL(CLOSED) FOR SETTING UP OF 10 MTPA IB VALLEY COAL WASHERY AT CHHARLA OF LAKHANPUR TEHSIL BY M/S. MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED.

As scheduled the public hearing for the proposed 10 MTPA IB Valley Coal Washery of M/s.Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Lakhanpur Area was conducted at Kandsar Primary School (closed since long due to insufficient number of students) on 31.08.2016 from 11.00AM. The DM & Collector, Jharsuguda presided over the meeting. The Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Jharsuguda and other officers of Pollution Control Board were present. The Sub-Collector-cum-SDM and Tahasildar, Lakhanpur were also present. The Officers of MCL and people representatives i.e Sarpanch, Kushraloi G.P, Sarpanch, Sarandamal G.P., Sarpanch, Bandhabahal G.P., Chairperson, Lakhanpur Panchayat Samiti and around 200 people of three Gram Panchayats namely Kushraloi, Sarandamal & Bandhabahal were present.

At the outset, the Regional Officer, OSPCB, welcomed the DM & Collector, Jharsuguda, the public representatives of the Area and public in general and informed the purpose of conducting public hearing. He requested the DM & Collector, Jharsuguda to preside over the public hearing meeting, which the DM & Collector, Jharsugda agreed.

The DM & Collector, Jharsugda in his opening address informed the gathering that the Public Hearing is being conducted as per the instruction of MoEF & Climate Change, New Delhi and did inform about the proposed Ib Valley Coal Washery that the washery is being set up to improve quality of coal and will be established involving latest technology like tube conveyor coal transportation, zero discharge and coal dispatch through SILO. He further said that, public opinions are very much important in such matter and requested the general public to put forth their opinions on the issue of environment & pollution in the event of coming up of the said washery.

The General Manager, Lakhanpur Area in his address informed that MCL, Lakhanpur Area is setting up this coal washery for beneficiation of coal which will reduce ash content and improve coal quality. This proposed coal washery will be set up using latest technology like Zero discharge, coal transportation by tube conveyor, coal dispatch by using SILO and many others. For setting up of this washery no additional land is required to be acquired, no displacement of families is involved and will be within the mine boundary of Belpahar OCP. This washery will create huge job opportunities for the local people. He further gave the details of CSR expenditure in the Area and local employment given in various private contractual agencies during the past three years. He further emphasized that the CSR activities will be further intensified in coming days.

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*Dr. J. K. Singh*  
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The general public were invited to put forth their opinion on the proposed Ib Valley Coal Washery, relating to environment impact and pollution.

- 1) Shri Raghmani Pradhan, Sarpanch, Kusraloi: He stated that MCL has not done enough in the Area and because of the ongoing mining activities the people of the Area are suffering very much. He requested all the general public present in the meeting to boycott the public hearing. Before public hearing, a meeting with MCL officials and public should be held and finalized all the issues including employment. He also said that a resolution was passed in the Gram Panchayat in this regard and copy of the same is sent to the Collector. The letter of G.P received on 30.08.2016 is enclosed as Annexure-1.
- 2) Shri Ghanashyam Barik, Ubuda: He stated that MCL is not doing enough for the local population and not providing employment. MCL is following employment guidelines of British Era 1989. MCL has not done anything in environment protection and the Area is covered with dust and people are hesitating to come to this Area. He opposed the project and called upon the general public to boycott the public hearing. He submitted a memorandum which is enclosed as Annexure-2.
- 3) Shri Janardan Sandha, Ex-Sarpanch, Kushraloi : He said that even though his land has been acquired by MCL, benefits of employment and other benefits have not been provided. He objected the proposed project.

One more petition dated: 31.08.2016 received is enclosed as Annexure-3.


Shri Raghmani Pradhan & Shri Ghanashyam Barik and one more person started shouting and instigated all the general public to boycott the public hearing. Few more persons also started shouting and forced all other people who were present in the spot to leave the hearing place. Looking at the imminent law and order situation, the DM & Collector, Jharsuguda stopped the public hearing.

Further, a number of villagers/local people & public representatives who were present in the public hearing meeting said to the DM & Collector, Jharsuguda that they were not allowed to speak. The DM & Collector asked all such people to give their opinion/views on the proposed Ib Valley Washery in writing which can be intimated to the proper authorities. The individual written statements (334 Nos.) received from the people supporting the project are enclosed as Annexure-4.

The representation vide No.357 Dtd:31.08.2016 received from the Sarpanch, Sarandamal G.P, Jharsuguda, supporting the project is enclosed as Annexure-5.

The representation vide No.249/2016 Dtd:31.08.2016 received from the Sarpanch, Bandhabahal G.P, Jharsuguda, supporting the project is enclosed as Annexure-6.

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The representation Dtd:31.08.2016 from Shradhanjali Padhan, Zilla Parishad, Lakhanpur-III is enclosed as Annexure-7.

The representation from Naib Sarpanch, Bandhabahal G.P. Dated:31.08.2016, supporting the project is enclosed as Annexure-8.

Though the Public Hearing was stopped keeping in view the imminent law & order situation, we are of the opinion that majority of the public & public representatives are supporting the project.

Under above circumstances and views of people as enclosed, appropriate decision in the matter may kindly be taken.

31/8/16  
Regional Officer,  
State Pollution Control Board,  
Jharsuguda.

31/8/16  
District Magistrate & Collector,  
Jharsuguda District, Odisha.