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PROCEEDING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF PETA DECORATIVE STONE MINES OF SRI CH. VENUGOPAL FOR PRODUCTION OF DECORATIVE STONE UP TO 60,488CUM/ANNUM OVER AN AREA OF 19.425HA. AT VILLAGE PETA NO - 47, TAHASIL MOTU IN THE DISTRICT OF MALKANGIRI AT SITE LOCATION (PETA VILLAGE) OF MALKANGIRI DISTRICT ON 15.09.2016 AT: 10.00 A.M

At the outset, Dr A.A.K Chatterjee, Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Rayagada welcomed all the persons assembled in the hearing. He stated that M/s Peta decorative stone Mines of Sri Ch. Venugopal has proposed for production of decorative stone up to 60,488Cum/Annum over an area of 19.425 Ha in Peta village of Malkangiri district. It has applied for Environmental Clearance to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India, and carried out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study. In accordance with the notification of MoEF, Govt. of India. The Board has been entrusted to conduct Public Hearing in this regard. He clearly described the different means adopted for large publicity regarding conduct of public hearing on the schedule venue, date and time. He requested the general public to put forth their views, objections, opinions, comments and suggestions regarding the proposed project, specifically relating to environmental issues without any hesitation.

Then he requested the Additional District Magistrate Sri Raghmani Gamango OAS(S) to kindly preside and supervise in the public hearing.

The Additional District Magistrate welcomed the people for attending the hearing with a message to the Public that they should give their comments based only on the Pollution related aspects, not on any other issues. He briefed about the project and elaborated the objective of conducting public hearing in respect of any project seeking environmental clearance from Govt. of India.

Then he invited the representatives of M/s Peta Decorative Stone Mines of Sri Ch. Venugopal to give the detail description on the project.

Sri Rahul Kumar, Technical Associate of M/s Udaipur Mintec Private Limited on behalf of M/s Peta Decorative Stone Mines Mining Project presented the salient features of the project, the present status of the environmental conditions, possible impact on the environment due to such activities and the remedial measures to be undertaken by the project proponent to reduce the impact while executing the project in hindi language. The same was later translated to Odia language by Sri Saroj Pattnaik.

The Additional District Magistrate, Malkangiri invited the public to offer their views, objections, opinions, comments and suggestions regarding the proposed project, specifically relating to environmental issues.

About 200 persons were present in the public hearing meeting. But only 153 persons signed in the attendance sheet. However, only 10 persons spoke and signed the deliberators' attendance sheet and one written representation is received during the hearing. Thereafter the following persons took part in the hearing and spoke on different issues related to the proposed project. Their statements recorded are as follows.

1. Sri Madakam Venkatesh, Naib Sarapach, Peta Village

He addressed the chair and audience and submitted a written representation to the Additional District Magistrate. He said that about 170 nos of houses are there in Peta village and the village is about 12KM away from the National Highway . But their village has no proper road connectivity. Due to this, they are facing problem especially for pregnant ladies in case of their delivery and other emergency situation. In addition to this he informed that many educated youths are there in their village who are still unemployed. He expected that due to commencement of the mining project scope of employment will arise. He further added that drinking water facility should be provided to their village and also demanded for construction of a Sri Ram Temple in their village as majority of the villagers belongs to Hindu community.

2. Dr. Kamaraj Kawasi, Pusuguda

He addressed the chair and gathering and he intimated that they are very fortunate that the decorative stone mine is situated in their village. He said that he has gone through the entire EIA report of the mining project and found many mitigative measures will be taken by the project proponent during execution of mining. He wanted that the company should actually take up the welfare work instead of commitments. In this context he demanded for construction of Road, Medical facility for the villagers during the 7 years mining tenure.

3. Sri Ganga Madkami, Peta

He spoke in their local language which was translated in Odia by Dr Kamaraj Kawasi. Sri Ganga requested the audience to come and speak up before the chair at this occasion because they may not get such opportunity later. He also requested to provide the road and medical facility for the villagers.

4. Smt. M. Laxmi, Sarapanch, Pusuguda

She addressed the chair and said that about 23 gram panchayats are situated in their block but her village is neglected due to non availability of road. Further they are deprived of adequate hospital facilities. Therefore she requested for construction of good approach road and hospital facility. She politely requested the Tahasildar to provide the land for the said purpose.

5. Smt. Madakam Mutam, Peta

She expected that the company will fulfill the demands put by the villagers. In this context she added that the company shall provide drinking water facility, construct road up to Pusuguda village and also establish a rural health centre as skin diseases may arise during mining activity.

6. Sri Bhima Madakami, Peta

He reiterated that after establishment of the project the demands for employment, hospital facility and road will be full filled. Hence he requested the people to speak out on this occasion.

7. Sri Lasa Madakami, Peta

With welcoming applauses by the audience, very briefly he demanded only for old age pension.

8. Sri Madakam Kana, Peta

He told that about 20,000 villagers face difficulty for transportation due to non availability of Road, drinking water, non availability of school and many are not getting proper treatment for malaria due to non availability of Doctors. Hence he requested the company to provide such facilities.

9. Sri Rajesh Madakam, Peta

He said that they are not getting old age pension. He wished that if mines is established then most of the problems regarding employment will be resolved and people will not go to Andhra Pradesh for employment. He further demanded for monthly medical camp and construction of a temple in their village.

10. Smt. Meenati Madakam, Peta

She demanded for road, drinking water facility and proper medical facility for the delivery patient.

CONCLUSION:

The procedure stipulated to conduct public hearing as per the EIA notification has been followed and complied with. Publicity regarding public hearing was made in the following manner –

- Advertisements through an Odiya Daily "Dharitri" dated 13.08.2016 and an English Daily "The New India Express" dated 13.08.2016 regarding the venue, date and time of the public hearing along with the places of availability of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, Executive Summaries (Odiya & English) and soft copy in the office of Collectorate Malkangiri District Industries Centre(DIC), Malkangiri, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Malkangiri, Head Office of the State Pollution Control Board, Bhubaneswar, Regional Office of the State Pollution Control Board, Rayagada & Department of Forest & Environment, Govt of Odisha and also in the website of State Pollution Control Board, Bhubaneswar (www.ospcboard.org).

-The same is also made available along with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports, Executive Summaries, soft copy in the office of Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Podia, Malkangiri and Gram Panchayat Office, Pusuguda G.P, Malkangiri

Further public announcements was made regarding Public Hearing for information of the public in the surrounding villages of Mine area .

Additional District Magistrate, Malkangiri chaired the public hearing & Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Rayagada has briefed the issues raised by the public . The project proponent redressed the issues raised by the public.

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The statement of issues and concerns of public with the comments of the representative of the project proponent, prepared in Odiya and English Language are annexed separately as **Annexure I & II**. The written representation received during the public hearing is attached as **Annexure - III**.

The public hearing ended with vote of thanks to the chair and participants.

A.A.K. Chatterjee
15/09/2016
(DR A.A.K CHATTERJEE)

Regional Officer,
State Pollution Control Board, Rayagada,
Odisha State
(Assisted as representative of
State Pollution Control Board)

Raghumani Gamango
15/09/2016

(RAGHUMANI GAMANGO, OAS (S))
Additional District Magistrate, Malkangiri
(Presided and Supervised
the Public Hearing meeting)