

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF BALRAM OCP OF M/S. MAHANADI COALFIELDS LTD. FOR EXPANSION OF COAL PRODUCTION FROM 8 MTPA (NORMATIVE) TO 20 MTPA (PEAK) OVER AN AREA OF 2507.42 Ha. IN TALCHER COAL FIELDS OF ANGUL. HELD ON DTD.12.05.2015 AT 10.00 A.M AT JAGANNATH KALAKENDRA IN THE DISTRICT OF ANGUL.**

The Public Hearing of of Balram OCP of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. for expansion of coal production from 8 MTPA (Normative) to 20 MTPA (Peak) over an area of 2507.42 Ha. in Talcher Coalfields Ltd. of Angul was held on dtd.12.05.2015 at 10.00 a.m at Jagannath kalakendra in the district of Angul. Sri Sushanta Kumar Barik, Additional District Magistrate, Angul presided over the meeting. He welcomed the public who were present at the venue for participating in the meeting. Dr. B.B Dash, Regional Officer and other Officials of Odisha State Pollution Control Board Regional Office , Angul organized and conducted the public hearing meeting. The public hearing in respect of the above project was held as per the schedule and at the venue in accordance with the EIA Notification S.O.1533 (E) dt.14.09.06 and subsequent notifications. The public hearing meeting with regard to date, place & time was announced in the public address system apart from its publication in local dailies. The process followed for the public hearing was adequate. The attendance sheet of the public present in the public hearing meeting is annexed in **Annexure- I**. Around 100 persons attended the public hearing meeting where as only 61 persons signed the attendance sheet. 09 persons had delivered their views whose list is annexed as **Annexure-II** and all of them took part in the deliberations.

At the outset Dr. B.B.Dash, Regional Officer, Regional Office of State Pollution Control Board, Angul welcomed all the public present in the meeting. He briefly described the objective, processes and procedures followed for conducting such public hearing. He also briefed about the objectives of conducting the public hearing as per the EIA Notification No. S.O. 1533(E) of Dt.14th September 2006 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India and the detail about the proposed mining project. He also informed that the date, time and venue for conducting the public hearing for Balram OCP of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. for expansion of coal production from 8 MTPA (Normative) to 20 MTPA (Peak) was advertised in Oriya daily "The Dharitri" on dtd.09.04.2015 and in English daily "The Indian Express" on dtd.09.04.2015.

He also intimated that the date, time & venue of public hearing was informed to the public in surrounding villages by public address system.

Sri Susant Kumar Barik, Additional District Magistrate, Angul, briefed the audience about the importance of such hearing and invited the project proponent to make a presentation on the proposed project prior to the presentation by the public. He also invited the public to offer their views, objections, opinions and suggestions regarding the project related to environment issues and also they may give written representation reflecting their views. The Additional District Magistrate, Angul explained to public that those who want to participate in the public hearing may discuss about the impact on the environment due to the proposed project.

Dr. B.B Dash Regional Officer, Regional Office of State Pollution Control Board, Angul described about the agenda of the meeting. He requested the representatives of MCL for Balram OCP of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. to give brief description about the project and pollution control measures and Environmental Management Plan proposed to be taken by the project proponent.

Sri Umakanta Mohanty, Area Environment officer, of Balram OCP, M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited welcomed the public and explained about the different aspects of requirement of the Balram OCP Expansion Project & different pollution control measures to be adopted in the mine during operation of the coal mine. He briefly presented the control measures which will be adopted by project proponent for controlling air, water and noise pollution during mining operation. The different measures such as deployment of dust extractor in all the drills working in mines, installation of fixed type sprinkler as per requirement in railway siding/CT roads/CHP, deployment of more numbers of water tanker in mines as well as Coal transportation road, black topping of permanent haul roads in mine, cleaning of roads through mechanical road sweeper, creation of green belt, transportation of coal from CHP to Silo through belt conveyors, deployment of more numbers of surface miners for coal production, ETP will be provided in all HEMM work shop with 'zero discharge' facility, the mine drainage water will be used for industrial purpose, provision of garland drain and sedimentation pond around mine boundary, design of plant and machinery by providing silencers and enclosures, HEMM with sound proof cabin, green belt around the quarry, infrastructure site, service building and township besides avenue plantation on

both side of road, all project affected families along with other displaced families will be re-settled and rehabilitated socially and economically as per Odisha Govt. norms/CIL norms and employment will also be provided as per norms, development of nearby villages will be made under MCL's CSR policy as per requirement.

The following is the summary of the public hearing proceedings, reflecting the views and relating to environmental issues as well as some of their demands, expressed by the assembled public at the venue. It was recorded by the officials of the Regional Office of State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, Angul.

**1. Sri. Muralidhar Sahoo, Solada Village, Ex Member, Zilla Parishad :-** Sri Sahoo expressed that the previous speaker one officer of MCL authority read out some proposal stating that they shall take appropriate steps to control and mitigate environmental pollution. He further stated as follows, he urged that the stated action must be implemented in field. When the proposals are read out in PH meeting and if the proposed actions are not implemented then that is a matter of sorrow. The officer on behalf of MCL expressed that they have acquired Konark Block whose major area belongs to Solada village and some rehabilitation programme have been done by them, but it is unfortunate that some employment opportunity has been given to few people and RR benefit have not been given to some families of Solada village. The MCL authorities are telling some villagers to demolish their house without making alternate houses for them and he questioned where these poor fellows shall move and stay. He requested that until their accommodations have been arranged they should not be removed from their houses. He said that mines such as Hingula and Balram OCP are operating since last many years and similar proposal as proposed by environment officer must be there previously for obtaining environmental clearance and so far these proposal implementation are never inspected or verified as observed. Because throughout India maximum pollution is witnessed in Talcher such as water pollution, air pollution and noise pollution. The road connecting from Derra chhak to Handidhua is the main road of this area which is in a very miserable condition giving rise to pollution. For national interest Talcher people are tolerating this and Talcher people have some dedication towards nations development and they have not

demonstrated on these issues as on date. If the present situation continues then the people shall go for demonstration. He requested that ADM, Angul, has redressed grievances of public but MCL authority do not act according to their commitment after resolving the issues. He further expressed that the people wish for national interest i.e. coal production should be enhanced after giving happiness and comfort to the common people of Talcher. If Talcher people become aggrieved due to project or production enhancement activities then Talcher people shall not allow. Noise pollution has become prominent because of blasting in mines leading to cracks in house which need to be redressed. If objection is raised due to cracks caused, MCL authority responds that the houses are not properly built up.

**2. Sri Sanjaya Sahoo, Danara Village :** Sri Sahoo expressed that his previous speaker deliberated on most of issues of Talcher and he endorses it and agreed to most of these issues. He further expressed as follows. He had a discussion along with others with GM of Hingula Area earlier and GM expressed his concern how people are travelling from Zero point to Hingula High school due to miserable road situation. He told that he was giving an example how management at higher level have programme and attitude for development but implementation at lower level do not happen due to lack of attitude at that level. The water sprinkling is being done occasionally but the supervision is not done for regular sprinkling. He is thankful to management and state Govt. that public hearing is conducted on environment pollution today, which was not conducted previously. He said that they do not welcome operation of mines by by-passing public interest or demands. However due to huge demand of coal for state and nation and real requirement of coal for nation's development coal production enhancement/ expansion should be done and it is welcome. All over India R&R policy of Odisha is best and implementation should be proper. The proper water sprinkling and waste water treatment shall be done. He requested that by implementation of environment plan properly they welcome the project expansion.

**3. Sri Bijaya Kumar Biswal, Ex-Sarpanch, Karnapur G.P.:** Sri Biswal expressed that this Public Hearing meeting is conducted today which is a good step and this should not be limited to the public hearing meeting only and some appropriate steps should be taken. Man has birthly right to inhale clean air and

clean drinking water. But there is a big difference in Talcher area, pollution is everywhere. As per example the employees of MCL do witness that there is dust layer in every house beds and coolers in the morning but MCL authorities do not listen to these issues. He gave an example that when he was sarpanch of Karnapur G.P. he used to write to G.M. Hingula Area regarding functioning of STP at Balram township and the discharge of waste water to Karnapur village through a nallaha but no body had paid any heed to it though 4-5 G.Ms have been changed since last eight years. He had requested to clean bushes and provide retaining wall at both sides of nallaha and proper treatment, but nothing could be sorted out. There is competition between GMs of different areas of MCL for higher coal production and they have no intensive internal effort to address environmental issues. There is a fundamental right to every body to have clean air and water but in reality no body is addressing this. But today is auspicious because of this public hearing meeting, as on today appropriate steps may be taken in such a way that no body is deprived of fundamental rights.

**4. Sri. Sushanta Kumar Behera, Samiti Member, Saloda, Kalamchhuin GP :**  
Sri Behera expressed that the plan or program presented in this meeting on behalf of Balram OCP is known to all of us. He wanted to know how many programs have been implemented. He further expressed as follows, one road from Talcher to Maa Hingula temple could not be constructed. MCL authority are raising thousand million tonnes of coal every day and crores of rupees are earned by MCL out of these coal production. Thousand crores of landed properties are dedicated to MCL and country. The air pollution from Zero point to Hingula temple is intolerable. The temperature of Talcher goes upto 52°C which is not tolerable along with air pollution. The water sprinkling is going on regularly. One weigh bridge is existing where water sprinkling was requested, which is not done. The drinking water supply which is given to Kalamchhuin GP is very poor. The drinking water is supplied from Gandhi Sagar where animal carcasses are dumped, which is very unfortunate situation. There are six crossings for human from Kumunda to Zero point which is very risky. We are willing to give land for every one and for country. After giving all facilities you may take our land. Now we request ADM, Angul to provide electricity, drinking water and road communications for which we shall be grateful.

**5. Sri Purushottam Sahoo, Solada Village :-** He expressed that they have no road communication to their village. He further expressed as follows, before taking their land road should be constructed and plantation shall be made on both side of road. The drinking water supply should be given. The uninterrupted electricity supply should be given. All above facility may be provided to them and they shall give their land etc. to the project.

**6. Smt. Rina Sahoo, Natada Village :** Smt Sahoo expressed that there is air pollution and noise pollution in this area. All sorts of facility should be provided to land losers. The plan implementation are not done in field, which is sorrowful. The notification for land acquisition of Natada village has been done since 1985 but nothing has been done for their betterment. The people are staying near the Balram mines and their houses have developed cracks due to blasting. The drinking water given to people are very poor, atleast portable treated water should be supplied to the people. Kalamchhuin, Danara, Solada villages are very nearer to mine and cracks are developed due to blasting. The project including the Balram coal mining project should continue and all sorts of facilities should be done for betterment of people of Talcher. She requested that people of Talcher coal field should be together and demanded that land may be acquired after providing all sort of facilities.

**7. Sri Jugal Kishor Sahoo,Secretary, Kalamchhuein village :** Sri Sahoo expressed that the number of people present here are not sufficient for conducting such public hearing because the people have not been informed properly. He further expressed as follows, this public hearing is for expansion of Balram OCP but the people of the affected area have not been informed, so they are not present here. So I request the Regional Officer and MCL authority to inform more people properly for their presence and valuable opinion may be sought from them. The MCL authority must give their achievement. i.e developmental activities then they should speak about their further expansion. The expansion shall take place for development of people. We are welcoming the project expansion but the interest of SC/ST people and general people must be kept in mind. It is requested that all sort of facilities should be provided to them. The educational

institution and hospital shall be shifted to alternate place and facilities should be extended to affected people.

**8. Sri Gadadhar Sahoo, Solada village :** Sri Sahoo expressed that this public hearing meeting should be conducted in the affected area or near mine but this is being conducted here. This meeting should be done in panchayat office or near village. The people should be informed properly. The medical facilities, health care including ambulance should be done for local people and there should be free medicine for common disease like malaria and dengue. The educational facilities such as admission in DAV School for 20-30 no. of students of affected people should be done. The traffic problems are there for which the student going to High School are falling down from cycle. There is less plantation along the road. The water sprinklers on road and plantation should be done. The public hearing should be conducted in the affected area, so that more and more affected people can participate and give their views.


**9. Sri Daktara Mohanty, Danara village :** Sri Mohanty expressed that paper works of MCL is alright but work implementation is not done. The people to be displaced from their houses due to project are told to vacate without making alternate housing arrangements. The project should be done otherwise people shall not get their food. He expressed that project should be done for development of the people. The people shall not oppose for project expansion and at the same time all sorts of facilities should be done for the people. The road from Dera to Hingula is in very bad condition, which should be improved and there is no road from Talcher to Hingula mandir. The mine employees are getting all sorts of facilities including better drinking water, electricity, health care facilities and gas etc. but affected people are not getting anything. The drinking water supply pipeline to Danara village is not working properly. All sorts of facilities should be provided to people of Solada gram panchayat and people of Solada gram panchayat should be properly rehabilitated and people shall easily give their land for the project.

After the deliberations were made by the public, the summary of the views and concerns of the public with minutes were read out in odia language by the Regional Officer, SPC Board, Odisha, Angul. Then he invited the representative of


the mine to offer their views on issues raised by the public. Sri B.C.Tripathy General Manager, Hingula Area of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited placed his views on the issues raised by the Public. The summary of the views and concerns of the public and the commitments made by the Project Proponent are annexed in Oriya & English language as Annexure-III & IV, respectively.

At the closing of the meeting ADM, Angul thanked the public for their patient hearing and participation in the deliberation and for concluding the meeting in a peaceful manner. The video recording of the entire proceeding of meeting is placed herewith.

Finally the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and all participants in the meeting.

  
(Dr. Binod Bihari Dash)  
Regional Officer,  
State Pollution Control Board, Odisha,  
Angul.

**Regional Office**  
**State Pollution Control Board**  
**ANGUL**

  
(Sri Sushant Kumar Barik)  
Additional District Magistrate,  
**Dist. Magistrate**  
**Angul**