

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROJECT OF M/S. MAHANADI COALFIELDS LTD. FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HINGULA COAL WASHERY OF 10 MTPA CAPACITY WITHIN THE LEASEHOLD AREA OF BALRAM OCP OF HINGULA AREA, TALCHER IN THE DISTRICT OF ANGUL HELD ON DTD.28.04.2015 AT 10.00 A.M. AT JAGANNATH KALAKENDRA, AT-JAGANNATH COLONY, SOUTH BALANDA, TALCHER, DISTRICT-ANGUL.**

The public hearing of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. for establishment of Hingula Coal Washery of 10 MTPA capacity within the lease hold area of Balram OCP of Hingula area, Talcher in the District of Angul was conducted on dtd.28.04.2015 at 10.00 A.M. in Jagannath Kalakendra, at-Jagannath colony, South Balanda, Talcher, District-Angul. Sri Sushanta Kumar Barik, Additional District Magistrate, Angul presided and supervised over the public hearing 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 attendance sheet of the public hearing and the public who attended the meeting are annexed as **Annexure- I**. Around 180 persons attended the public hearing meeting where as only 66 persons signed the attendance sheet. Thirteen 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 establishment of Hingula Coal Washery of 10 MTPA capacity within the lease hold area of Balaram OCP of Hingula area, of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd was advertised in Oriya daily "The Dharitri" on dtd. 25.03.2015 and in English daily "The Indian Express" on dtd.25.03.2015.

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 Hingula Coal Washery 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 Hingula Washery, Hingula Area, M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited welcomed the public and explained about the different aspects of requirement of the Hingula Washery. The proposed Hingula Coal washery will be located in the 17 Ha. lease hold area of Balram OCP of Hingula area of M/s MCL. He told that the area is barren/scrubland and no Nallah / River passes through this area for proposed washery. He briefly presented the different control measures which will be adopted by project proponent for controlling air, water and noise pollution during Washery operation. The different control measures for air pollution which will be adopted during operation such as all the raw coal will be collected from Hingula OCP through pipe conveyer and after washing will be dispatched through covered conveyer and SILO arrangement and for the water pollution different control measures such as water spraying arrangement at receiving hopper, dust suppression on the road by sprinkling of water, road inside the plant will be black topped, pipe conveyer and covered conveyer shall be used for transportation of coal, green belt of area 1.45 ha around washery shall be developed to control dust and noise pollution, good housekeeping to minimize dust pollution, the crusher / pulverizers shall be provided

with enclosures, water spraying arrangement shall be provided at all strategic coal transfer point, enclosures etc., the proposed washery is based on closed circuit system means all the water fed in to the system shall be collected after use and re-circulated after treatment, surface run-off settling pond shall be provided with garland drain to collect and provide run off to the pond, the surface runoff water will be stored in settling pond and will be reused for washery. He also intimated that ground water or surface water shall not be utilized for any industrial use in the washery, for Noise pollution they will use equipments with arrangement of absorbing the operational noise, will provide ear muffs/plugs to workers and also provide insulated sound proof in HEMM, 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 issue 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 Nimai Charan Sahoo, Hatibilasahi, Natada Village** : Sri Sahoo expressed that earlier in the year 1985 Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. had taken 164 acres of land for their mining work. M/s MCL had also declared the cost of the land in presence of Collector, Sub Collector, R.D.C. & Sub-committee and the people had got letter regarding cost of the land. He further expressed that Balram OCP is operating their mine at about 50 mtrs distance from their village. Due to the blasting in mines and dust nuisance it is very difficult to live in the village. People, animals are facing problems due to scarcity of water. Due to unavailability of water in pond they are not able to do cultivation. M/s MCL had promised to rehabilitate and resettle the villagers since last seven years but it is yet to be done. If MCL wants to establish the Coal washery , they have to rehabilitate and resettle them and also give employments to their people and they should proceed for their work.

2. **Sri Haramohan Sahoo, Ex-Sarpanch, Natada Gram Panchyat:-** He welcome ADM, Angul, RO, SPCB, Angul, other officials present in the meeting and all the villagers present in the meeting. He expressed thanks for calling him for this public hearing meeting on behalf of his village and other nearby villages. He expressed that whatever presented by the project proponent regarding pollution issues and their prevention, if practiced is beneficial for them. He further stated as follows. He is staying nearer to the MCL area and observed that pollution is not being controlled which shall make an adverse impact on health. He told that they observed that Jindal is established nearer to them but no development has been done. He also expressed that due to Hingula project & Balram Project they are facing air pollution, water pollution and sound pollution. In spite of this they will not prevent any development work which is meant for development and benefit for public. They will be grateful to them for the benefit of public, if state or country will progress. However, all should be aware about environment and public health. If drinking water shall not be available properly then people will be affected by several diseases. So, whatever pollution control measures presented by the project proponent of MCL in the meeting, if these are implemented then these are highly welcome. But actually implementation is not done by MCL. MCL is having so many mines, if they are adopting pollution control measures then why dust layer is being deposited on the road side, pond etc. For the proposed establishment of Hingula Coal washery of 10 MTPA capacity, if appropriate pollution prevention and control measures are not taken then they will bear huge loss. He also expressed that Natada village is nearest to proposed coal washery. He requested ADM to visits their village and take appropriate action to resettle and rehabilitate the villagers.

3. **Sri Bhagban Biswal, Village Committee Member, Danara :-** He first of all welcome all the present officials. He further expressed that they are experienced with whatever MCL had told and they have done in the area. M/s. MCL had taken 1100 Acres of land from Danara village, but they are facing pollution problems, water problems, which need to be visualized. He further stated as follows. The project proponent will establish coal washery on western side of their village. There is already a coal washery existing in western side of their village. On the last Saturday a storm occurred due to which people could not be able to stay at their home and dust was being deposited in each house. They are facing water problem and they had intimated to the Collector, Angul regarding water problem vide their letter dtd. 20.11.2014 as well

as copy to the General Manager, Hingula Area and State Pollution control Board, Bhubaneswar. Again they had written letter to Collector vide letter dtd.20.01.2015 with a copy to Hingula G.M regarding the same problems. He opined that Danara village is suffering from different problems and wanted to know what type of pollution control measures adopted by them. Mines quarry water is supplied to them for drinking purpose. The overhand tank has been provided by MCL and the water is supplied from mines quarry, pure water should have been supplied. If anybody will go in morning he will find in the water tank a layer of dust lying on the top. He suggested that after giving land of 1167 acres, a patch of 65 Acre lands is lying vacant which is 4 km from Natada Village and Danara village and that patch can be used for proposed washery. That patch is not being used for cultivation and no water is also available nearby. Therefore he requested that MCL should acquire Danara village and also that 65 acres land so that MCL can construct not only one washery but can construct five washeries. They have given letter to Hingula area vide letter dtd.16.1.2015 regarding construction of boundary wall along the pond and some other construction works, but nobody is listening to them. They have proposed for establishing a bore well for water supply, since one year nothing has been done. The present General Manager of Hingula area who is there, he will also go but Danara problem will not be solved. He requested that ADM should visit the village and realize their difficulties and resolve their problem. He requested that their 65 acres of land should be acquired by MCL and rehabilitate the Danara village, then they will allow for construction of the coal washery.

4. **Shri Daktar Mohanty, Danara Village** :- Sri Mohanty welcomed ADM, Angul and Officials of State Pollution Control Board and expressed his thankfulness. He expressed that this public hearing is conducted in pen and paper. He further expressed as follows. The villagers who will lose their land they will not get job where as outsiders will get job. The people of Danara Village specifically youth are sitting idle. They welcome the plant because the people will get 1000 jobs and can do business also, for which coal washery should be established. Proper water sprinkling arrangement should be made in mines. Presently sprinkling is not done properly by MCL for which dust emission is there, which need to be stopped. He stated that let the plant be established and they welcome it. Without establishment of plant people will not get food. He requested ADM, SPCB officials for taking appropriate steps for giving all facilities to the villagers and coal washery be established.

5. **Sri Tripura Biswal, Danara village:-** Sri Biswal expressed that today is an auspicious day, because in presence of District Administration, MCL authority and villagers, he got this chance to share his views with the people. He further stated as follows. Regarding environment problem everybody knows. He stated that there are issues on coal dust transportation roads, water spraying on road, supplying of pipe water to overhead tank etc. Overhead Tank has been constructed and started but not with pumping arrangements operated and also the pipe connection has not been provided properly. There already exists a washery near Danara Village, where 12-13 nos. of bore well has been there because of which the ground water level has been reduced. He came to know that another washery is going to be established, which is good but there is no land in village Danara, only dwelling house are existing, so as per law the villagers should be rehabilitated. He expressed that what steps administration and MCL will take he doesn't know, but the Danara village is having all types of problems. So he requested that people should decide what action should be taken for betterment of people after Collector or Sub collector or ADM investigating about the problem and resolve it. He stated that if State Government and Central Government wants to do good works for the benefit of people then why Administration will not do so. He said that he has already spoken on all issues and his views and he concluded.

6. **Sri Gandharba Sahoo, Secretary Danara Village Committee :-** Sri Sahoo expressed that he welcome ADM, Angul, MCL officers, Pollution control Board officials and villagers. He further expressed as follows. The environmental issues is a laughing stock now- a days. In oriya, there is a proverb "I can offer elephant and horse but play my pipe musical instruments". He said that there are too much dust and while going on the road by vehicle one will feel like riding over tidal waves, because of bad road conditions. Due to dust pollution whatever one keep in the house there will be a deposit of layer of dust on it. Only in name sake water spraying is being done that too only at the end of the shift which will cover two shifts. Because of this unsystematic spraying of water there is dust pollution. The village is having water pipe line but since last two year it is not functioning properly and there is always leakage in pipe line. The MCL have also provided overhead tank for drinking purpose but the water is supplied from mine quarry. Then, there shall be adverse impact on the status of health of people. When MCL is going to establish a washery which is welcome by them. As industry is

established the Country will be developed as well as State and so the villagers. But the industry should not be established at the cost of miserable condition of people. First MCL should give all the rehabilitation facilities to the villagers including environment protection then they don't have any objection in establishing the washery. The proposed site of this coal washery is near to Danara Village as well as Natada Village, which is also at western side of Danara Village. Already one washery is existing near the village and another will be established besides it, then half of the villagers will not be able to reside comfortably in their village when both of them start operating. He also expressed that as per his opinion, they have 65 acres of unused land which is not being cultivated due to non availability of water and road facility to that land. So those people who were dependent on that land are yet to be compensated by MCL. As MCL is responsible for this, so if MCL will construct washery on that land then there will be no dust pollution in Danara village or in Natada Village. If coal washery is constructed on present site, there will have direct impact on Natada and Danara village. That is why he suggested to construct the coal washery on the above said 65 acres patch of land, which shall be beneficial.

7. **Sri Sanjaya Sahoo, Danara village:-** Sri Sahoo expressed that he welcomed ADM, Angul, SPCB officials and his fellow Villagers. He expressed that first of all he welcome to 2 to 4 proposals of previous speakers He said that in order to get something one has to lose something . He stated that he would like to offer thanks for organising such a public hearing meeting to the organisers and District Administration, MCL Officials. There is already a washery existing in which out of 200 employees, 150 employees belong to Danara village. The people working there may not be his relatives or family members but they are from Danara village which is highly welcome steps by all of them. In that washery, the coal washery authorities have adopted high technology which is not known to many villagers due to non operation of the washery since last eight to nine years. In spite of its non-operation, salaries are paid in time and thats why some of the villagers of Danara village may speak against the existing washery. But he welcome the new proposed coal washery which is going to come up near Natada and Danara village. His seniors Harmoham Babu, Gobardhan Babu, Bhagaban Babu as told earlier, he also would like to put up 2-3 cases. He also requested MCL authorities to acquire and give the employment to inhabitants of Hatibila - sahi of Natada village. He also stated that in Danara village, out of 1062 employment case, one case was sent to Supreme court and why such discrimination was created by MCL authorities is not

known. Everybody should get employment. The MCL/washery Employee those who have got employment they can only say about what benefits they are getting.

He welcome the technology as expressed by Mr.Mohanty representative of proposed project proponent, but it should be implemented properly, rather than in pen and paper only.The MCL authorities like GM, Directors, whatever they instruct should be implemented properly by bottom level executives and which should also be supervised by area GM. The dust suppression / water spraying / sprinkling in mines area is not being supervised properly. He requested that the GM of MCL should supervise the above lacuna properly. About 2 crores rupees was spent by MCL in Danara village for water supply, but why it is not working properly, there should be an investigation. It is really matter of sorrow to say that why after spendig so much of money it is not working properly. Once again he welcome coal washery as proposed by senior but the demand of his senior should be given due importance including acquisition of 65 acres land, the Hatibali Sahi of Natada should be acquired and given employment by MCL. In the proposed washery the 80% of employment should be given to the nearby villagers such as Natada, Danara etc. The work which is to be taken up by the washery that should also be given to villagers of Natada and Danara for implementation. Once again he welcome the coal washery and the demands as proposed by the villager should be fulfilled with the help of Administration. Now - a - days people from all over India oppose for setting up the new industries in Odisha but he always support it. The Industries should be established there but the demand which are being proposed should be fulfilled implemented and it should not be only limited in pen and paper. He once again welcome the establishment of proposed coal washery.

8. **Smt Rina Sahoo, Hatibali Sahi, Natada village** : Smt Sahoo expressed that she is thankful because she has been called for the the public hearing meeting. She further stated that the establishment of Hingula coal washery is very much needed. She further stated as follows. Hatibali Sahi of Natada village is very near to Balram OCP and due to mining they are facing lot of problems as well as due to blasting. The houses are developing cracks and there is no water supply facility to their village. The bore well which was constructed by them is also not working properly. After public demonstration the collector and ADM Angul had also visited their village. Once again she requested to ADM, Angul to have aother inspection in their village to see whatever



problems they are really facing. Already due to mining they are facing a lots of problems if another washery is established then more problems are going to be faced by them and one can imagine, how they would stay there. He requested ADM, Angul to take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and resettle them and also give employment them as early as possible. She expressed thanks to SPCB for inviting them to this public hearing meeting but whatever problems they are facing due to mining should be investigated and necessary arrangement may be made for providing facilities to them, then only they will welcome establishment of coal washery. Untill the rehabilitation and resettlement and employment problems are sorted out, they will not allow the washery to come up. With this she concluded her speech.

9. **Sri Sudarsana Nayak, Natada village** : Sri Nayak expressed that he is very much happy that before construction of coal washery their opinion is being taken for which he offered thanks to District Administration. He further expressed as follows. With the development of industries the Country shall be developed and their village will also be developed. As stated by Mr. Mohanty, representative of MCL on different pollution control measures by MCL but the importance should be given on supervision of such control measures. If they will oppose the industry in Talcher, it is his personal view that one can see area like Athmallik, there the Environment is very good but lifestyle and development of their area is far far better than them. So without destroying the environment, there shall have industrial development, that will be very much welcome. He welcome the proposed coal washery.

10. **Sri Manas Ranjan Sahoo, Sarpanch, Danara Gram Panchayat** : Sri Sahoo expressed that as the village committee stated that they have 65 acres of land which is not being cultivated and there is no road and water to that land then that will be the best suitable place for coal washery project. He further stated as follows. As told by previous speakers he agreed to that as per the guidelines of pollution control frequent sprinkling should be made. A guideline should be prepared how much percentage of employment will be given to the people and through CSR what MCL will give. Being Sarpanch he proposed to hold a Pallisabha meeting in his village. He requested to ADM, Angul as demanded by people that actually there is water supply problem in Danara, overhead tank is provided but there is no water in tank. As this is a project, pump khalasi and other maintenance people should be deployed there which should be redressed

properly. It is may also be clarified that how much employment and how much development work through CSR will be provided to them and these issues should be redressed properly otherwise they shall not allow this project.

11. **Sri Janak Sahoo, Hatibali Sahi, Natada Village** : Sri Sahoo expressed that he is staying in Hatibali Sahi of Natada Village, which is very close to Balram OCP and he is having a deep well of 25 feet depth and 300 feet borewell which are not having any water due to mining activity. He further stated as follows. The water supplied by the MCL is also not good quality. Somedays MCL supply good quality water and some days dirty water. It is very difficult to manage his house. Therefore, he appealed that it is better that they may be rehabilitated and resettled properly elsewhere for which he will be thankful.

12. **Sri Gagan Bihari Sahoo, Kalamcchuin village** : Sri Sahoo expressed that he welcomed ADM Angul, MCL officials and villagers present there. There is a coal washery near Danara Village in which there is no facilities given to local people. He further stated as follows. In that area lot of coal washeries are coming up due to which pollution is occurring and adequate attention to environment protection should be given and pollution control measures should be taken. But in reality it is not done. Whatever told in public hearing meeting it is not being implemented in field. In pen and paper everything is recorded but in actual it is not implemented. On behalf of that area he requested ADM, Angul to record the issues raised by the public so that it should be implemented. He requested all the villagers those who are present should offer their views there without any fear and also highlight their problems. As they belongs to Talcher area they are not getting the benefit of the electricity where as MCL employees get 24 hours electricity. The coal produced from Talcher area which provides electricity all over India where as they are not getting electricity. The electricity which is supplied by the Government is at very low voltage and he requested MCL to provide the electricity to all of them for which they are ready to pay electricity bill. The water which is supplied to them by MCL authority is very much unhygeinic and polluted. There are maximum patients in Talcher region. He questioned that how many health camps have been organised by MCL authorities. In their village, there is no facilities of road communication, school, water facilities etc. But in MCL area their employees get all above facilities. He opined that if they survive in comfort in the area Country shall be


developed. An agenda may be prepared for development of the area and then that work shall be commenced. Therefore, he requested all Government Official to pay due attention for appropriate redressal. Therefore, he requested to resolve all above issues raised in that public hearing meeting.

13. **Ms. Ritarani Das, Zilla Parishad Member, Angul** : She expressed that she welcome to SPCB officials, ADM Angul, Tahasildar Talcher, GM Hingula and villagers present there. She putforth two questions before people and SPCB that Central Pollution Control Board has reported about Angul and Talcher as one of the most critically polluted area in India. She further stated as follows. It may be stated that how much pollution has been controlled the fact has to be placed before the people of Talcher. In the proposed washery, detail project report and how much man power shall be employed should be paced there. Due to MCL mines there are lot of ancillary small scale industries which have been developed and as per Government norms semi skilled, skilled and executives that is 90%, 60% and 30% of people should be employed from the local area. In reality how many local people have been employed in these industries. As she is a member of zilla Parishad / District Committee member of Angul, she wanted to get a copy of this report and she wanted to know what steps have been taken to control pollution, green belt plan and safety of life of the people. She also wanted to know what action has been taken for mitigation natural disaster like earthquake as there is load imbalance of open cast / under ground mines. She requested ADM Angul, Tahasildar of Talcher that they should give much importance to pollution problems and problems for the local unemployed youth and what action will be taken for their employment.

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 Hingula Coal Washery to offer their views on issues raised by the public. Sri. B. C. Thripathy, General Manager, Hingula Area of M/s. MCL 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 language & 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)  
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State Pollution Control Board, Odisha,  
Angul.  
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