

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing for the proposed M/s Balaji Electro Smelters Limited, Pimperkunta (V), Bheempur (M), Adilabad District Telangana State with the production of Manganese Ore of 3264 TPA (Peak) held on 08-02-2018 at 11.00 AM, in an open place, near Dr. B.R Ambedkar statue, Pimperkunta (V), Bheempur (M), Adilabad District .

The following Public Hearing panel members were present:

S. No.	Name of the Panel Member	
1.	Sri K. Krishna Reddy Joint Collector & Addl. District Magistrate, Adilabad District	Chairman
2.	Sri B. Bhikshapathi, Environmental Engineer, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Nizamabad	Convener

The following representatives of M/s Balaji Electro Smelters Limited, were present:

S. No.	Name & Designation
1.	Sri Rajeshwar Reddy Managing Director, M/s. Balaji Electro Smelters Limited
2	Dr. M. Ravi Kiran M/s. Pragathi Labs & Consultants Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad

At the outset, the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Nizamabad, TSPCB, invited the people gathered at the venue and public representatives and other officials to participate in the environmental public hearing held in connection with the production of Manganese Ore of 3264 TPA (Peak) by M/s Balaji Electro Smelters Limited. He has also invited the Joint Collector, Adilabad district to occupy the dais and conduct the public hearing in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification (EIA), 2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. While explaining the salient features of the EIA Notification, 2006 S. O. (E) No.1533, dated 14-09-2006 and its subsequent amendments issued from time to time, he stated that the public hearing was a mandatory process for the mining of major minerals or expansion of existing mines, which involves the mining through mechanical means. He stated that M/s. Balaji Electro Smelters Limited proposes to mine 3264 TPA of

ore in survey numbers Sy. Nos.139/p, 140/p, 141/p, 142/p, 143/p, 144, 145 and 154 of Pimperkunta (V), Bheempur (M), Adilabad (Dist) over an area of 32.63 Ha. Mining of Manganese Ore requires environmental clearance as Manganese is classified as major mineral and requires prior environmental clearance. He stated that the intimation of public hearing was published in 'Eenadu, Telugu Newspaper and in 'Indian Express' English Newspaper on 07-01-2018. The Executive Summary on the project and other relevant information was displayed in the local Govt. offices and the Collectorate to enable the people public to access the information. The present project is categorized as 'B1' and the environmental public hearing is being held to elicit the views, opinion, suggestions and objections if any on the proposed project. He informed that no complaints were received so far against the operation of the mine. He also informed that the entire proceedings would be video graphed and would be sent to the authorities for taking further action and no final verdict on the proposal would be taken during public hearing. He then requested the Joint Collector, Adilabad district to conduct the proceedings of Public hearing.

The Joint Collector& Addl. District Magistrate, Adilabad (Dist): while inviting the people gathered at the venue, he stated that the paper notification was issued a month back and the entire proceedings of the environmental public hearing would be video graphed and would be sent with the views on the project expressed by the people gathered at the venue. He stated that human life is more important than anything else and environmental pollution is having direct impact on the lives of the people. Environmental pollution includes air, water, noise and land including flora and fauna. It is imperative that the any industry should see that the levels of pollution should be within the standards, so that there would be no adverse impact on human lives. There will be direct benefit to the State and local authority through collection of taxes and collection of royalty. He assured the people that opportunity would be given to all the people, who intended to speak on environmental aspects. He then invited the Company representative or their consultant to explain the salient features of environment management plan and mitigation measures proposed therein.

Miss. Anasuya, Representative of M/s. Pragathi Labs & Consultants Ltd: She stated that M/s. Balaji Electro Smelters Limited was granted mine lease covering an area of 32.63 Ha (80.63 acres) to undertake mining of Manganese ore. The

proposed mine is located at Pimperkunta (V), Bheempur (M), Adilabad (Dist). She gave out the project details of anticipated impacts on environment and the remedial measures proposed to mitigate the additional load of pollution. She gave out the salient features of the project as detailed below:

- SEIAA of MoEF&CC issued Terms of Reference through letter dated 03-02-2017.
- Mining area will be confined to 32.63 Ha (80.63 acres). Mining operation will be carried out over a period of 200 days in a year.
- Baseline environmental status constituting air, water, noise, soil, ecological studies, land utilization, socio-economic conditions and occupational health of one season was collected covering 10 km radius to compute the rapid environment impacts arising out of the proposed project. All parameters are within the stipulated standards.
- Mining of Manganese is semi-mechanized method with simultaneous backfilling with the use of mechanical equipment like Jack hammer, compressor, pay loader, excavator and dumpers and tippers for proposing to extract ore of about 32 TPA. The mining operation will actually be confined to day time only.
- Green belt will be developed, which will also serve as buffer zone to suppress the noise and dust. Plantation of 7.5 m width will be raised to arrest soil erosion from the mine area.
- Safety equipment like helmets, shoes and safety belts will be provided to the workers.
- Low impact on dust generations Jack-hammer drilling will be adopted. Whatever dust that will be generated will be suppressed by sprinkling of water.
- Fugitive dust emission will be minimum as there will be addition of only one truck load to the existing traffic.
- Noise generated from mining operations will be dissipated within the mine. However, workers will be provided with earmuffs / ear plugs.
- Use of sharp drill bits and adoption of wet drilling system will greatly reduce the noise.

- Total water requirement is 8.3 KLD, which includes mine operation and dust suppression (2.7 KLD); dust suppression of roads (1.6 KLD); domestic (1 KLD) and Green belt (3 KLD).
- A seasonal surface water body is existing at a distance of 1.1 km in SW direction. A check dam is proposed before discharging the rain water into the natural drain.
- Domestic waste will be treated in septic tank followed by soak pit method.
- Blasting will be carried out once in a week.
- Excavated top soil will be utilized for afforestation.
- Mine out of areas will be refilled and restored to its original status for carrying out agricultural operations & backfilling will be carried out simultaneously, leaving a buffer of 2-3 m from the toe of backfilled area.
- The mining area is mainly covered with grass and other local species.
- As per the studies, the levels of PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO_x, CO are within the norms, stipulated by TSPCB. The above parameters will continue to be monitored on quarterly basis.
- The industry will take up Green Belt Development within the mining area to control soil erosion.
- Rain Water Harvesting structures (RWHS) is not possible as the mining operation does not permit creation of pond for rain water storage purpose.
- Direct employment to 27 people during the operation phase and indirect employment to about 10 members during the operation phase of the mine.
- The industry will implement welfare measures through CSR route to ensure all round development of the area such as infrastructure development activities and provision of books and uniforms to school children. Drinking water supply is proposed during summer season.
- Management is willing to spend Rs.2.0 lakhs every year for the development of Village.

The Joint Collector, Adilabad (Dist) requested the public gathered at the venue of public hearing to offer their opinion, suggestions and views on the proposed expansion project. He informed the public that all doubts would be cleared by the officials of TSPCB and project proponent.

1. Sri J. Ganesh, R/o Pimperkunta: While supporting the proposed mining project by M/s. Balaji Electro Smelters Ltd, he sought employment to the unemployed youth from the village. He raised the issue of health problems faced by the people who worked in the mines and sought issue of health cards. He requested supply of drinking water to the village during summer season as the village faced shortage of water. He wanted that drawl of ground water by the mine operator should not affect the ground water level. He wanted to know the payment of royalty to the village and reminded that the non-closure of mined out pits posed the problems to the cattle as well as to the human beings in some cases resulted in casualties due to accidental fall into the pits and requested closure of pits on completion of extraction of ore.

2. Sri D. Ramesh, R/o Pimperkunta: While welcoming the proposed mine project, he felt that this project would put forth the Pimperkunta village as important village in the arena of economic development of the district. Unemployed youth would get gainful employment. He requested the management not to divert the funds meant for community development activities in the village.

3. Sri T. Anil Yadav, R/o Pimperkunta: He questioned the method of leasing the land as mines were left without closing the mine. He stated that the consent of farmers were not taken before leasing their patta lands. The lease of land was given by the Mines Department without informing the farmers and without any intimation the lease holders entered into the lands of farmers, excavated the farmers' fields and left the land without restoring the lands. He cited sy. No.149 of this village, the mine operator carried out mining to the fringe of the land and rendered the land unsafe for farmers as well as cattle as deep pits became death traps for them. The farmers were left without any option, but to part their lands as lease agreement was entered by the Government without any intimation to the farmers who were holding the patta / title of the land. He requested the authority to conduct an enquiry and render justice to the farmers who were affected by the previous mine operators and restore the land back to undertake cultivation.

The Joint Collector, Adilabad assured to take action against erring mine operators.

4. Sri Ch. Swamy, R/o Pimperkunta: While extending the support to the proposed mining project, he concurred with the views expressed by the previous speaker. He demanded that action should be taken against the mining operators who excavated the lands and making them unsafe to the villagers as well as to the cattle and sheep and other livestock due to accidental fall into the deeper mine pits. He stated that there were educated poor people who should be provided employment in the mining projects.

5. Sri Ch. Ashok, R/o Pimperkunta: He extended his full support to the proposed mining project. He complained that mine operators were bringing labors from Maharashtra and Chattisgarh States ignoring the local unemployed labors. He sought employment to the local educated youth in the proposed mining project.

6. Sri Ch. Swamy, R/o Pimperkunta: He complained that two families of this village fraudulently got the title of the land to the extent of Ac.22 of Sy. No. 27, which belonged to his grandfather. During the verification of Revenue records, it was found that the two families got 12 acres and 10 acres respectively. He requested the MRO to rectify the defect and even after lapse of one month, the same problem remained. The MRO advised the farmer to approach the RDO for rectification.

The Joint Collector, Adilabad assured to take necessary action.

7. Sri Ch. Bhoomanna, R/o Pimperkunta: He raised the issue of acute drinking water shortage faced by the village and severe drought conditions faced by the village. He sought employment to the local people as there were several people without work. He reiterated the demand of earlier speakers on closure of excavated mine pits by the earlier mine operators and cited the deaths occurred due to accidental fall of a boy and several cattle and sheep into the deeper pits, left open, after extraction of ore without refilling.

8. Sri P. Ashok, R/o Pimperkunta: He complained that it was misnomer to state there was adequate ground water in the village wells and the village experienced severe shortage of water for drinking and cultivation purpose. He cited the example that the plants were getting dried and shortage of grass for cattle and livestock during summer season. He demanded assurance on supply of drinking water to the village during summer season. He supported the proposed mining project.

9. Sri Shaik Hussain, R/o Pimperkunta: He sought assurance on payment of actual wages to the laborers employed by the mines and payment of justified wages. The mining operations should not hamper the agriculture of surrounding fields. Supporting sticks were planted in the fields and in most of the cases the sticks were getting damaged. Hence, he sought assurance from the mine operator that there would be no damage to either agriculture or to the agriculture implements used by the local villagers.

10. Sri Janardhan Reddy, NGO, Hyderabad: He stated that he attended the public hearing conducted earlier and requested the people not to compare with the other mine operator. He stated that the present mine operator would stick on to the rules and would comply with the norms stipulated for mining. He narrated the problems faced by the people due to blasting in mining projects. Blasting should be taken up during the absence of agricultural operations to avoid possible accidents or inconvenience to the people. Though the mine operators react positively during the public hearings, in practice, the bore wells installed to draw ground water were getting damaged and several complaints were received in this regard. While extending his support to the proposed mining project, he advised the mine operators to follow the safety standards.

11. Sri Madhu Babu, NGO, Hyderabad: He stated that there were good reserves of Manganese ore in and around this village and some were exhausted. There is also extensive forest cover in this district. He felt that trees should be grown to maintain the environment and ecology. Priority should be accorded to the local employment and people complained that laborers from neighboring Maharashtra and Chatisgharh were brought to work here, which should be avoided. He felt that closing of mined out pits would be a difficult and costly job, hence he suggested fencing the mined out pits to avoid accidental fall of human beings as well as cattle and other livestock.

12. Sri Vijaya Reddy, Environmentalist, Hyderabad: He stated that similar public hearing was held during 2011 also, hence the people here were acquainted with this event. The intention of preparation of Environment Impact Assessment Statement is to study the baseline study of environment and change in parameters during mine operation as well as after closure of mine. The existence of man is dependent on Land, air and water. If there is any change in these parameters, the existence of

mankind would become questionable on this earth. Mining would be carried out in non-agriculture days only and output from manganese mine would be around 18 TPD. No change can be anticipated due to transport of one lorry load of Manganese ore and it will have negligible impact on impact. He made a suggestion to the EIA consultants to plan mining in parcels so that small portions of land could be mined and restored back, at the same time second parcel of land could be mined. In this way, the problem of restoration of land for cultivation could be achieved. He stated that there were two types of lands one belongs to Government and other to the private individuals / agencies. Rights on mineable minerals rests with the Government, but the right of land for cultivation rests with the farmers only. The lease holder after mining the mineral should make it cultivable and hand it over back to the farmer. He suggested to the MoEF&CC to impose a type of caution deposit on mining companies to collect two times of cost for restoration of the land by calculating probable depth of mining and quantum that was removed from the mine. In case the mine developer failed to restore the land, the same amount could be utilized for restoration purpose through another agency. MoEF&CC to impose such conditions while giving clearance to the mining project itself. Rising of tree plantation is essential, though Adilabad District is covered by forests, the area is experiencing drought conditions this year and there is shortage of water. Due to diversion of forest area for non-forest purpose and for cultivation purpose, the area is becoming prone to various natural calamities such as erosion of soil and its fertility. Due to failure of cotton crop, the children of farmers were looking for alternate employment and awaiting private investments to come up to provide employment. He also made a suggestion to develop Rain Harvesting structure on about 4 to 5 acres of land to store rain water, which would improve the ground water levels so that farmers could draw water for agriculture crops. The RHS can be fenced to prevent accidents. There is a necessity to protect the forest as well as conservation of water to protect the environment. Not only the employees to be developed but the entire village should be developed simultaneously. He supported the proposed mining project.

13. Sri N. Ravi Kumar, NGO, R/o Pimpalkunta: He supported the proposed mining project. He complained that employees were brought from the outside area. The Governments at Centre and State were according permissions to the mining projects. The District Administration is responsible in the implementation of

conditions imposed on mining companies. By encouraging the mining projects, the royalty accruals can be utilized for development projects. He expected that villages to be developed due royalty received due to mining projects as several mining projects came up in this district. He gave two suggestions one is to raise 33% of the area under forest cover and faulted that the Adilabad district was rich in forest cover. There is regular reduction of forest area due to diversion of forest land for non- forest purposes. Supply of drinking water to the villagers by the managements of the mines. He concluded his views with a request to recommend the project for environmental clearance.

14. Sri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, R/o Hyderabad: He supported the proposed mining project. He stated that he visited Yavathmal mining project. The Public hearing is conducted to study impacts on land, air and water. The RHS should be started in such a way to conserve water so that water would be useful to local farmers. It is necessary to take up extensive afforestation of Government lands to maintain balance in the environment. He suggested that mining operation to be carried out during non-working time of farmers and constituted to form a committee to take up activities under CSR to undertake the requirement of local people. He stated that a committee was constituted in the case of previous mining project. The Committee submitted its report within three months. He attended meeting of the committee expressed reservation over the report and its implementation. He requested the management to implement the recommendations so that the accidents could be averted. He also appealed to the Joint Collector to see that the management of other mining project to rectify the defects by filling the excavated mine pits.

15. Sri Chandrashekhar, NGO, R/o Hyderabad: He appealed to the Joint Collector to take action against the mine management as cattle and livestock accidentally falling into the excavated pits. He also wanted that pure fluoride free water should be supplied for drinking purpose. He urged the people and management to plant the trees on the lands so that there will be equilibrium in local environment. He requested the management to engage local people in mining project. He supported the proposed mining project.

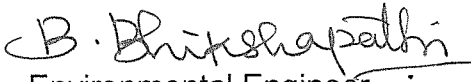
16. Sri Purushotham, Telangana Rashtra Karmika Vidya Mandali, R/o Pimperkunta: The mined out pits to be filled by the management. He stated that local people were anxiously waiting for employment and requested the District Collector to ensure the employment to the local people. He cited the views expressed by the earlier speaker on the royalty collected on mining and provision of royalty for local development. He urged the authorities to provide tax for laying the roads, so that the village would be benefitted.


After eliciting the opinion of the public, **the Joint Collector, Adilabad District** requested the industry representative to offer their responses to the various issues raised during the public hearing.

Sri Rajeshwar Reddy, Managing Director, M/s. Balaji Electro Smelters Limited: He urged the people not to compare with the earlier mine management. He assured that the mined out pits would be filled up soon after the extraction of ore. He stated employment would be provided to the local people only and the number would be increased depending on the requirement. About 70% i.e 15 to 20 members would be provided to the local people. The work on the proposed mining project would start in the month of March, 2018. He assured that the action on meeting the drinking water requirements would be taken up. It was proposed to dig (drill) a bore well. As people demanded two bore-wells, the management would be willing to undertake the drilling of two bore wells as per the convenience of the people. He stated that 30% tax would be deposited with the District Mineral Fund for village development. About Rs. 10 lakhs was earmarked for Environment Protection Fund and Rs.6 lakhs is earmarked for annual environment maintenance. He assured that full cooperation would be extended to the local bodies.

The Environmental Engineer, TSPCB, Regional Office, , Nizamabad stated that 16 members expressed their views on the proposed mining project. He assured the public gathered at the venue that unedited videography recording along with the minutes of the meeting would be sent to SEIAA of MoEF& CC for taking further action on the proposed mining project. He then requested the Joint Collector to conclude the PH.

The Joint Collector, Adilabad in his concluding address stated that so far 16 members expressed their opinion and the speakers raised the basic problems faced by the villagers. He stated that project proponent agreed to the demand of provision of local employment. The problem of lease lands would be looked into and the lease agreement entered between farmers and mine owners would be examined. In case there is non-performance of lease agreement, the District administration would definitely interfere to render justice to the affected. Any mining activity should be carried out without endangering the environment. There are techniques to restore the environment to its original status. Filling of land to its original status is one such important obligation and making it fit for cultivation is essential after mining out the ore by mine operator. He assured to take action against the erring mine operators. He stated that the environment consultant enumerated the problems due to mining. Except management personnel, the rest employees would be drawn from the local people. He assured to look into the utilization of DMF for local development. He also stated that worker wages would be provided as per minimum wages act and as per the wages paid by other industries. He concluded the public hearing.


Environmental Engineer
T.S. Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Nizamabad.


Joint Collector &
Additional District Magistrate,
Adilabad district.

