

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED ON 31.07.2010 AT 10.00 A.M. AT DDC HALL, DISTRICT COLLECTORATE, TIRUNELVELI FOR THE EXISTING LIMESTONE MINES, THALAIYUTHU VILLAGE OF M/S. THE INDIA CEMENTS LIMITED, SANKAR NAGER, TIRUNELVELI TALUK, TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

PRESENT : THIRU. M. JAYARAMAN, I.A.S.,
DISTRICT COLLECTOR

THIRU.S. BABU RAMANATHAN, M.E.(Env.Engg)
DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TNPC BOARD, TIRUNELVELI

THIRU. R. VIJAYA BASKARAN, M.E., MBA
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TNPC BOARD, TIRUNELVELI

PARTICIPANTS : LIST ENCLOSED

At the outset the District Collector welcomed the gathering and informed the objective of public hearing. There was a heavy crowd of public assembled inside and outside the hall. The District Collector wanted to give opportunity to all the public to offer their views and hence asked the public to offer their opinion. Their views and queries were all heard and minuted below. Some of the public have submitted their objections in writing to the Collector. The details of the Petitions and the reply furnished by the Unit are enclosed vide Annexure - B.

Thiru. Arasi N. Mariappan, Thalai Area Lorry Owners Association, Sankarnagar

He informed that lot of rare lime stones like dolomite are mined and used for cement production. These materials if sold outside through TAMIN, Government may get lot of revenue to the tune of around 60 Lakhs and no private industry shall be allowed to mine the limestones. He also added that about 7000 persons were employed directly and 15000 people are employed indirectly earlier. Now the mines uses only about 200 employees of which 150 of them are North Indians. He insisted employment shall be given to local people.

Tmt. Krishnaveni , .

- She informed that
- i) fly rocks due to blasting in the mines are affecting the nearby houses and cattle
 - ii) As the mining goes below 210 feet from ground level ground water will deplete.
 - iii) The overloading of limestones in lorries about 50 tonnes in 8 tonne lorries affect the roads and children using the road.
 - iv) The mining lease was stopped before 20 years. Hence it should not be renewed.

Tmt. Sudalaivadivu, Thalaiyuthu

- She also informed that
- i) fly rocks due to blasting in the mines are affecting the nearby houses and cattle
 - ii) Local villages are not employed much. The workers heirs are not employed.
Her husband worked in India Cements and his health is affected . Her son is not given any employment
The association of India Cements is not helping the villagers.
 - iii) Houses are affected due to vibration. Hence no more new blasting shall be permitted.

Thiru. Shiek Mohammed, Thalaiyuthu

Mining goes below 200 feet. Hence ground water will be affected. Movement of lorries with boulders cause unsafe road conditions for children.

Thiru. Mohammed Salim, Thalaiyuthu

The lorry movement damages the roads.

Thiru. Murugesan, Thalaiyuthu

He informed that on behalf of all persons of Thalaiyuthu he opposes the heavy blasting in the mines.

Thiru. S. Dhakshinamoorthy, Assistant General Manager, Quality Assurance and Environment.

He informed that the mine is existing since 1951 and the public hearing is only for obtaining renewal of mining lease and it is not a new lime stone mine as assumed by many of the public. Hence the existing practices of mining adopting since inceptions will only continue.

ANNEXURE - B

Summary of Petitions submitted by the Public and the reply furnished by Mr. R. Chandrasekaran, Chief Manager (Geology) of The India Cements Ltd., Sankarnagar

Petition No. 1:

Mrs. P. Krishnaveni, Panchayat President, Thalaiyuthu Panchayat

Details of Petition :

The Unit is undertaking Blasting operation by drilling 4.5 to 6 inches bore and blasting for a depth of 50 feet and at a time 20 to 30 holes. Because of this the dwelling are damaged and causing panic among the public and other living beings.

The Limestone transporting Lorries are carrying 50 tonnes causing noise and dust pollution causing health hazards. Because of this the Govt. has stopped the Mining Operation before 8 years.

Reply given by the Unit :

The Mining operation started in the mine in the year 1951. Since the mining lease was expired on 03.05.2008, the company has applied for renewal of the mining lease for the reduced the area of 48.33 hectares. The mining was continued upto the year 2008. The blasting operation was carried out by adopting controlled blasting practice and adhering all safety precautions. Blasting will be carried out for a maximum drilling depth of 10 mtrs. The blasting operations are carried out in a specific time and the blasting operations are not carried out at the time of cloudy weather thunderstorms early morning and evening times. Thick tree cover has been planted around the mine will act as a noise barrier. Using Milli Second delay detonators and Sequential Timer Blasting Machine and maintaining appropriate spacing and burden will reduce the ground vibration .

The Company is transporting Limestone through their own dedicated road from Thalaiyuthu and the roads are being water sprayed frequently for arresting the dust.

Petition No.2:

Tamilnadu Environment Society, Tirunelveli District

Mr. C. Paulraj, 398 Azadh Street, M.K.P. Nagar, Palayamkottai

Details of Petition :

- 1) The Unit mentioned that the Mine benches are maintained at 10 Mtrs. But it seems that the depth has gone 25 to 30.
- 2) The Unit is using more than 5 Poclain heavy equipment in the mine. It is more than the number of equipments stated in the report.
- 3) It is not true that the water level is low in the area as stated in the report under Para 2.6.
- 4) There is no proof for the statement given in Para 3.2 of the report.
- 5) The area is nearer to Mangrove type land in the area like Kurichikulam, Palamadai, Rajavallipuram etc.
- 6) The land use pattern given in Para 3.5 (b) is not supported with Satellite imagery.
- 7) The basis of data for population given in the report has not indicated. General information has not been given in respect of Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai. There is no information about the recently installed Coca Cola Plant and other factories in the area. They are all highly polluting industries no mention has been made in the report. Hence the details given in the report is not scientific. Hence reports should be prepared by Scientists, Environmentalist and NGOs without involving the company.

Reply given by the Unit

The mine benches are kept at 10 Mtr. height. Only equipments stated in the report were used. The area is not in mining operations since 2008. The water bore provided in the mine area will be used for domestic purpose. For tree plantation, water spraying etc. the stagnated water in the mine sump will be utilised. It is not true that the area is nearer to Mangrove type land. The surrounding area is rocky terrain. The villages like Kurichikulam, Palamadai, Rajavallipuram etc. are lying more than 4 K.M. away from the area. The entire data provided in the report has been elaborately discussed in the detailed report.

Petition No.3:

Fourm for Human Rights

Mr. Manikandan, District Organiser, Vennilingapuram, Venkateshwarapuram Post, Alangulam Taluk

Details of Petition :

- 1) The Unit mentioned that the Mine benches are maintained at 10 Mtrs. But it seems that the depth has gone 25 to 30.
- 2) The Unit is using more than 5 Poclairn heavy equipment in the mine. It is more than the number of equipments stated in the report.
- 3) It is not true that the water level is low in the area as stated in the report under Para 2.6.
- 4) There is no proof for the statement given in Para 3.2 of the report.
- 5) The area is nearer to Mangrove type land in the area like Kurichikulam, Palamadai, Rajavallipuram etc.
- 6) The land use pattern given in Para 3.5 (b) is not supported with Satellite imagery.

- 7) The basis of data for population given in the report has not indicated. General information has not been given in respect of Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai. There is no information about the recently installed Coco Cola Plant and other factories in the area. They are all highly polluting industries no mention has been made in the report. Hence the details given in the report is not scientific. Hence reports should be prepared by Scientists, Environmentalist and NGOs without involving the company.

Reply given by the Unit

The mine benches are kept at 10 Mtr. height. Only equipments stated in the report were used. The area is not in mining operations since 2008. The water bore provided in the mine area will be used for domestic purpose. For tree plantation, water spraying etc. the stagnated water in the mine sump will be utilised. It is not true that the area is nearer to Mangrove type land. The surrounding area is rocky terrain. The villages like Kurichikulam, Palamadai, Rajavallipuram etc. are lying more than 4 K.M. away from the area. The entire data provided in the report has been elaborately discussed in the detailed report.

Petition No.4:

People watch

Mr. S. Ganesan, Zonal Human Rights Co-Ordinator, 234, Nambirajapuram, Thatchanallur

Details of Petition :

- 1) The Unit mentioned that the Mine benches are maintained at 10 Mtrs. But it seems that the depth has gone 25 to 30.
- 2) The Unit is using more than 5 Poclairn heavy equipment in the mine. It is more than the number of equipments stated in the report.
- 3) It is not true that the water level is low in the area as stated in the report under Para 2.6.

- 4) There is no proof for the statement.
- 5) The area is nearer to Mangrove Palamadai, Rajavallipuram etc.
- 6) The land use pattern given in Satellite imagery.
- 7) The basis of data for population general information has not been given. Palayamkottai. There is no information about Cola Plant and other factories in the area. No mention has been made in the report is not scientific. Hence Scientists, Environmentalist and NGOs will

Reply given by the Unit

The mine benches are kept at 10 Mtr. height. Only were used. The area is not in mining operation. provided in the mine area will be used for domestic water spraying etc. the stagnated water in the mine true that the area is nearer to Mangrove type land. terrain. The villages like Kurichikulam, Palamadai, Rajavallipuram etc. are situated at a distance of more than 4 K.M. away from the area. The entire data provided is elaborately discussed in the detailed report.

Petition No.5:

Mr. S. Sivasubbu, Secretary, CPI (M), Thalaisyuthu B

Details of Petition:

- 1) The Mine was stopped five years back due to the public living within 5 K.M. radius.

- 2) 60 years before the ground water was at 30 feet. Now the water table has gone below 200 feet.
- 3) It was reported that the Limestone is occurring for a depth of 70 Mtrs. At the time of heavy blasting at 70 Mtrs. causing Vibration and also water table will go down.
- 4) We have no objection for mining with latest machinery without heavy blasting.

Reply given by the Unit

The Limestone in the Mine is marginal to sub-marginal grade, hence the mining operations was being carried out as per the need at the factory. However the mining operation was stopped in the area since these mining lease expired in the year 2008. The water bore drilled for the mining people employed in the mine indicates that the water is lying at the depth of around 50 feet. The blasting operation was carried out by adopting controlled blasting practice and adhering all safety precautions. Blasting will be carried out for a maximum drilling depth of 10 mtrs. The blasting operations are carried out in a specific time and the blasting operations are not carried out at the time of cloudy weather thunderstorms early morning and evening times. Thick tree cover has been planted around the mine will act as a noise barrier. Using Milli Second delay detonators and Sequential Timer Blasting Machine and maintaining appropriate spacing and burden will reduce the ground vibration. The Mining machinery indicated in the report alone will be utilised for mining operation. The Blasting operations will be carried out as per the procedure laid down by the Directorate of Mines Safety.

Petition No.6:

Mr. P. Dominic Pandi, Union Treasurer, AIADMK Youth Wing, Manur Union (North)

Details of Petition :

The India Cements has engaged in constructing a Thermal Power Plant and starting Mining Operation. The Mining operation was stopped on account of public complaints. Already people are suffering due to health problem because of India Cements Operations. Now the people are in fear due to upcoming projects. The Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board and the Forest Department have not taking any action.

Reply given by the Unit

The mine is existing since 1951 and the public hearing is only for obtaining renewal of mining lease and it is not a new lime stone mine as assumed by many of the public. Hence the existing practices of mining will only continue.

Petition No.7:

Mr. S. Mohamed Saleem, Union Secretary, AIADMK Youth Wing, Manur Union (North)

Details of Petition :

The India Cements has engaged in constructing a Thermal Power Plant and starting Mining Operation. The Mining operation was stopped on account of public complaints. Already people are suffering due to health problem because of India Cements Operations. Now the people are in fear due to upcoming projects. The Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board and the Forest Department have not taking any action.

Reply given by the Unit

The mine is existing since 1951 and the public hearing is only for obtaining renewal of mining lease and it is not a new lime stone mine as assumed by many of the public. Hence the existing practices of mining will only continue.


Petition No.8:**Tamilnadu Muslim Munnetra Kazhagam, Thalaiyuthu Branch****Details of Petition**

Using of Heavy Equipments and deep hole blasting, transportation of mineral and mining below mean sea level and noise due to heavy machineries creating air noise pollution, land pollution, causing various health hazards. In addition using plastic waste as fuel causing enormous health hazards like eye irritation breathing problem deafness, skin diseases, thyroid etc.

Reply given by the Unit

The haul roads are being water sprayed regularly for arresting the dust at the time of transportation. The Blasting operations will be carried out as per the procedure laid down by the Directorate of Mines Safety. The usage of plastics in the Cement Plant has been taken as per the direction given by the Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board.

Environmental Engineer, TNPC Board, Tirunelveli summed up the proceedings of the Public and informed that it will be recorded and submitted to the SEIAA through Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board


**District Environmental Engineer,
TNPC Board, Tirunelveli**


**District Collector,
Tirunelveli**

14.8.10.