

Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting held on 23.03.2010 Forenoon for the Project M/s.Raasi Industries India (P) Ltd proposed at S.F. No.: 100/2, 3A, Perunkurichi Village, Paramathi Velur Taluk, Namakkal District.

Venue: Chithalandur

Date ; 23.03.2010

Present:

1. Thiru. U. Sagayam, I.A.S., District Collector, Namakkal District, TamilNadu.
2. Thiru. S. Sadayandi, R.D.O., Tiruchengode.
3. Thiru. K. Elankumaran, D.E.E., TNPCB, Namakkal.

Participant:

Thiru. Udhayakumar Project Proponent and the public around 300 persons.

The District Environmental Engineer welcomed the District Collector and the gathering and informed about the project M/s. Sri Raasi Industries India (P) Ltd proposed at S.F.No.: 100/2, 3A, in Perunkurinchi Village, Paramathy Velur TK, Namakkal District. He then requested the District Collector to address the meeting.

The District Collector briefed about the proposed project and its industrial activities. He also pointed out the responsibility of the government to protect the Environment while developing the productivity. He then asked the Entrepreneur to present the details of the project.

The Environmental Consultant of the project has explained about the projects and its technical details such as production capacities and the man power and water requirement for the proposed industry. He explained that the industry has proposed to produce 4500 Ton/Month of ingots by melting waste scrap iron in electrical induction furnace and to produce 4500 Ton/Month of steel rods from the ingots. He explained that the emissions will be controlled by the Air Pollution Control system 'Wet Scrubber' proposed to be installed individually for the melting furnace and the Reheating furnace, with its stacks. The total water requirement will be 6500 liter per day, out of which 1000 liters will be the make up water for cooling water circuit and 200 liter for wet scrubber make up and the rest will be of domestic use.

The District Collector then requested the public to express their opinions.

Thiru.A.S.Mani

Already there are three such steel mills functioning in P. Velur Tk of Namakkal District and they have employed only North Indians for employment. No Tamilians are employed in these industries. If this new mill is permitted, there will not be employment for Tamilians. Also the smoke emitted from the stacks of this industry will affect the lands somewhere for away, if not nearer. The cultivation of vegetables and fruit will be affected in the surrounding villages. The project shall not be established in this site.

Advocate Jaishankar

The existing steel mills are causing ill effects to the people.Two wheeler tyres get punctured when we pass through the road near these steel mills, since steel bits are spilled

during the scrap transportation into these mills. The tip of all vegetations will be charred due to the emission from these mills. The Cattle will become sterile and cannot give birth to calves. I even have issued Notice to one of these steel mills.

Thiru. Matiazhagan, T.N.Human Rights Association

The industry has given false details in its project report and hence we cannot rely on the informations given by the industry. The industry is a Red Category unit as per the TNPCB, and hence the TNPCBd accepts that it is a factory generating very toxic wastes. Such a factory, shall never be permitted and no public hearing is necessary. Even a Resolution is wrongly passed in Panchayat to permit this industry. Every man has the right to breath unpolluted air.

Thiru. Chandran, Kabilarmalai

The Entrepreneur has explained that employment will be generated due to the establishment of this project. But no employment will be generated. The ladies who live in nearby areas of the existing steel mills often report headache, fever, stomachache etc. This is due to excessive flow of menstrual blood from these ladies and finally they will become sterile. Even cattle become sterile. The Project Report of this proposed industry has not shown the surrounding details and has not mentioned the disposal of waste. The wastes from this steel industry is dangerous than Atomic waste and hence the District Collect shall not permit this industry.

Thiru. K. Chinnappan, Tiruchengode

The proposed industry will be operated as per the Rules of the TNPCB. The dust emission will be controlled by Air Pollution Control measures resulting in decreased emissions which will be within the norms of the TNPCBd.

(At this point, the public objected for this expression in mass. The District Collector pacified the public and pointed out that any person shall be allowed to express his own opinion and others shall not interfere in it).

Ashok babu, ERODE

The industry has been classified by the TNPCB as Red, and orange category as per the processes and wastes, for administrative purpose.

When so may agricultural lands are converted to housing plots, why not the land be converted as an industrial plot. I wish that the project is to be established.

Thiru. Ponnarasu, Kabilarmalai

There are agricultural lands near the proposed industry and there are habitations nearby and it is not wise to give permission to such an industry. It is told that the TNPCB will take care of waste monitoring, but what action has been taken on the existing steel mills. They will issue show cause Notice and the industry will give a reply. If this industry is permitted, then who will be responsible for the after-effects due to this mill? All people nearby will die in future.

Tmt. Leelavathy, Perunkurichi

Due to this project, the ground water will be contaminated and agriculture will be spoiled.

Thiru. S. Natesan, Perunkurichi

There are 5000 people living within 2km radius of the proposed site for the industry. When the industry extracts large quantity of ground water, the surrounding bore wells will run dry.

Thiru. Kaliannan, Director, VAP. School, Peechapalayam

Our School is functioning for 9 years. We afraid that the smoke will cause pollution which may affect the students of the school.

Thiru. Natesan, Tiruchengode

Rainfall will be less in the areas where industries like cement, steel are located. Hence there will be no rainfall for agriculture in these areas.

Thiru. Sivakumar, Sullipalayam

Our land is near the proposed site for this industry. The smoke may be controlled by the Air Pollution Control equipments. But the heat from the industry cannot be controlled by them. All cattle will die.

The District Collected then invited response from the Entrepreneurs.

The consultant for the industry has explained that the actual extraction of ground water will only be 6500 liter per day and there is no process use of water. The emission will be controlled by Advanced Wet Scrubbing Technology and will be within the limits of the TNPC Board. There will be direct employment for 120 persons and indirect employment for 300 persons. The solid waste slag will be sent for cement industries for use. Since all the wastes will be effectively managed, there will be no any effects on surrounding agriculture.

Thiru. N. Krishnan, Vadaku Sullipalayam

If advanced Technologies are impleted, the ill-effects if environment in the existing steel mills in these areas shall be studied.

Thiru. A.S.Mani

If advanced Technology tips off for even two minutes, then the emission will be released without control and that emission will affect the public. Is it possible to catch our breath for those two minutes. Hence I request the Collector to avoid this industry.

Conclusion

During the above Hearing the Representatives of the Company tried hard to explain their stand that there will not be any pollution affecting the agrarian activities and peaceful living of the villagers. But the Villagers were in no mood to listen to them. The Villagers more specifically the farmers were objecting vigorously to the proposal of establishing the industrial unit. They have strongly objected on following ground.

1. The proposed industrial unit will cause emission of hot air and smoke. This will gradually and slowly burn and char the standing Trees and Crops cultivated in the fields near by.

2. The emission of hot air and smoke from the high rise chimney will eventually prevent rain fall in the villages near by.
3. The need for water is more when the unit starts functioning. This will deprive the farmers using water for agricultural purposes. The farming activity will get affected.
4. The unit will certainly cause health hazards to the villagers living near by. Pain, Burning sensation, itching in the eyes are some of the ailment, the people are likely to suffer from, on account of emission of smoke from the unit.
5. The free traffic will get affected in view of movement of vehicles carrying raw materials and finished product.

Considering the presentation of the facts of the company and villagers, I am of the genuine opinion that the representation of the villagers should be given due weight age as they have been living traditionally and doing cultivation for pretty long period. The villages are their Home land. Agriculture is the only occupation known to them.

Their fear is true and it is genuinely expressed and displayed in their representation. I believe that this unit will cause to certain extent the health hazard to the poor villagers, as it is feared. This will affect agrarian activity, which is the life line of these poor villagers. Functioning of this unit will cause environmental problem such as pollution unless consistent and tough check measures are taken.

In the given circumstances, I am not in position to take a decision against poor farmers and villagers. The agriculture has already turned to be a non profitable but a painful occupation. The farmers are struggling hard to sustain the farming activity. They are slowly moving towards urban centers in search of employment. My authority can't be used against the interest of the farmers. Agrarian activity can't be disturbed by the Administration. The peaceful life of poor villagers can't be destroyed. Interest of the farmers is the prime and of great significance. Interest of large number of farmers supersedes the interest of few individuals who are establishing this unit.

Therefore, it is decided not to recommend for environmental clearance in the best interest of ordinary farmers and villagers.

District Collector,
Namakkal