

Proceedings of the Environmental Public Hearing towards expansion of the Sponge Iron capacity from 100 TPD to 150 TPD by M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP at Sy. No. 60 & 61 of Vaderahalli village, Rampura Post, Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga District.

Date: 18.01.2022 at 11.00 AM

Place: At the premises of M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP at Sy. No. 60 & 61 of Vaderahalli village, Rampura Post, Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga District.

List of Officers Present:

Sl no	Name	Designation
1	Smt. Kavitha S. Mannikeri, I.A.S.,	Deputy Commissioner and Presiding Officer of Environmental Public Hearing Panel, Chitradurga.
2	Sri Muralidhara B.S	Senior Environmental Officer, Zonal Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga.
3	Sri E. Prakash	Environmental Officer and Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel, KSPCB, Chitradurga
4	Sri Suresh Kumar	Tahashildar, Molakalmuru.

I. List of project Proponent and Consultants present.

1. Sri Kailash Vyas, Director/Partner of M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP.
2. Sri A Siva Sekhar, General Manager of M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP.
3. Sri K K Readdy, Mechanical HOD of M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP.
4. Sri Hanumatha Reddy, Electrical HOD of M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP.
5. Sri Channa Rao, Process HOD of Sri Hari Sponge LLP.
6. Sri Muniraju G, Environmental Consultant of M/s. Ganga Envirotech, Bangalore.

II. List of Participants as per Attendance Register (Enclosed as Annexure-A).

Sri E. Prakash, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Chitradurga welcomed the Deputy Commissioner, Officials, representatives of Environmental Consultants, publics and Media persons.

As per the guidelines stipulated in the EIA Notification, 2006, the Environmental Public Hearing was earlier scheduled on 10.12.2021 and the same was published in leading news papers "Praja Vaani" (Kannada) and "The New Indian Express" (English) on 10.11.2021. Environmental Public Hearing was postponed as the MLC election was scheduled on 10.12.2021 and the Deputy Commissioner is the Returning Officer for the MLC election. Hence, the Environmental Public Hearing was re-scheduled on 18.01.2022 and the same was published in the National Level News papers "Praja Vaani" (Kannada) and "The New Indian Express" (English) on 18.12.2021 and also published in Chitradurga District local News paper "Suddi Giduga" on 02.01.2022.

The Panchayath Development Officer of Rampura Grama Panchayath was apprised about public hearing required for the process to facilitate local residents, Environmentalist and the public who are directly or indirectly affected by the proposed expansion project to submit their suggestions/objections/views/opinions/comments through E-mail/in writing to the presiding Officer of Environmental Public Hearing Panel (Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District)/ Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Chitradurga or orally during the time of public hearing.

The copy of the EIA draft report and Executive summary of the EIA report both in Kannada and English were placed at the following Offices for references to the general public and requested the said Offices to maintain the register by recording Suggestions/objections/views/opinions/comments of the general public.

1. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga.
2. Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga.
3. Office of the Dept. of Industries and Commerce, Chitradurga.
4. Office of the Taluk Panchayath, Molakalmuru, Chitradurga District.
5. Office of the Grama Panchayath, Rampura, Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga District.
6. The Regional Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga.
7. Help Desk, KSPCB, Parisara Bhavan, Bengaluru.
8. Ministry of Environment and Forest, South Zone Office, Koramangala, Bengaluru.

It was brought to the notice of Presiding Officer that, till 17.01.2022 only one written submissions received through E-mail at Regional Office, KSPCB, Chitradurga (Enclosed as **Annexure-B**).

Sri E. Prakash, Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Chitradurga in his preamble said that M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP at Sy. No. 60 & 61 of Vaderahalli village, Rampura Post, Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka has proposed to expand the existing Sponge iron production capacity from 100 TPD to 150 TPD (2500 MTPM to 4500 MTPM) by replacing the existing one 50 TPD kiln with 100 TPD kiln.

The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Govt. of Karnataka as per the EIA Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing.

The Proponent has obtained Terms of Reference (TOR) from the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Govt. of Karnataka vide no. SEIAA 66 IND 2021, dated: 26.03.2021 and requested the Karnataka State pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on 09.08.2021 to conduct Environmental Public consultation/ Public Hearing. Prior to the Environmental Public Hearing, the Presiding Officer/Chairman of the Panel i.e Deputy Commissioner called the unit authorities on 10.01.2022 for Technical Presentation through PPT on Environmental issues. During Technical Presentation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Project Authorities to add all required necessary measures after expansion of production capacity in the final PPT presentation of the proposed project.

As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, the Public Hearing was conducted on 18.01.2022 at 11.00 AM at the premises of M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP, Sy. No. 60 & 61 of Vaderahalli village, Rampura Post, Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga District under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District.

The Presiding Officer/Chairman informed the representative of M/s Sri Hari Sponge LLP to make power point presentation on the project including Environmental issues (Impact on Environment). On behalf of proposed project, Sri Muniraju G., Consultant representing the M/s. Ganga Envirotech, Bangalore, explained the public about the proposed project of expansion of existing production capacity of Sponge Iron from 100 TPD to 150 TPD through Power Point Presentation. The Salient feature of the project, the Environmental base line data, present scenario of existing Environment in the project area, the impact of the project on the surrounding Environment, Environment Management Plan, Measures proposed to control/mitigate the Environmental Pollution and CSR activities. Further he has informed that, the activity will be carried out by taking all necessary Air/Water Pollution Control Measures. The hard copy of the presentations made in the Public Hearing is enclosed as **Annexure-C**.

The Presiding Officer/Chairman informed the gathered public to express their views/opinions about the proposed project with respect to Environmental issues by submissions either in writing or orally. During the time of Public Hearing, **eleven (11)** persons expressed their views orally and their views/opinion/suggestion regarding proposed project are summarized as below.

1. **Sri K Basavaraju, ex-chairmen, Gramapanchayath, Vaderahalli Village:**

- ❖ The Vaderahalli villagers belongs to the SC category, the project authority has been giving the financial assistance of Rs. 4.0 Lakhs every year since 2016 for the development of Vaderahalli Village.
- ❖ The project authority has provided some basic facilities to our village viz., Furnitures to School, Concreting the roads, RO plant for drinking purpose.
- ❖ There is no problems from the factory and requested for the regular help to the villagers.
- ❖ He has no objection for the proposed project.

2. **Sri G. Basavaraj, Vaderahalli**

- ❖ The industry had established during the year 2008 and during 2016 M/s. Sri Hari Sponge LLP has taken over the unit and provided basic facilities like RO Plant for drinking water purpose, Ambulance facility and Concrete roads.
- ❖ During pandemic corona situation, the industry has provided job opportunities for 25-30 people of local villagers and increased their Salary.
- ❖ They have provided some needed furniture to the Vaderahalli School.
- ❖ He requested the industry authority to give more importance for the development of Vaderahalli village.
- ❖ He has no objection for the proposed project.

3. **Sri Chidanada, Rampura Village**

- ❖ He has agricultural land adjacent to this factory, due to the generation of black dust from this factory, the same black dust is seen in the bore well water and also accumulation of same dust on the cotton crop.
- ❖ He requested the factory authority to give the information regarding the suitable crop/seed for getting good yield as per soil type of their agricultural land.
- ❖ Since the authority provided facilities to the surrounding villages, he has no objection regarding the proposed project.

