

Minutes of the Thirty-second Meeting of High Power Committee held on 26th February, 2014 at 3.00 p.m. in the Conference Room of WBPCB

The Thirty-second meeting of the High Power Committee was held on 26th February, 2014 at 3.00 p.m. in the Conference Room of West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB). The meeting was chaired by Mr Prasanta Kumar Sarkar, Member Secretary, WBPCB.

The meeting was also attended by the following members:-

1. Shri K Mochhary, Additional Secretary, Land & Land Reforms Department, Govt. of West Bengal
2. Shri Chandan Chayan Guha, Joint Secretary, Home Department, Govt. of West Bengal
3. Srimati Mira Ray, Joint Secretary, Urban Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal
4. Shri R Foning Lepcha, Additional Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Department, Govt. of West Bengal
5. Shrimati Susmita Sen, Member
6. Shri H. Singha Roy, Member
7. Dr. Rajarshi Chakraborty, Environment Officer, Environment Department, Govt. of West Bengal and Member Convenor.

The following persons were present for the petitioners i.e. PUBLIC –

- i) Shrimati Banani Kakkar, Member of PUBLIC.
- ii) Shrimati Meghna Banerjee, Member of PUBLIC.

The following persons were present as special invitees-

- i) Shri Kunal Guha Ray, General Secretary, FHCER
- ii) Shri Santanu Chacraverti, President, DISHA
- iii) Sri Debashis Sarkar, Sr. Environmental Engineer, WBPCB.

The Chairman welcomed all and initiated the discussion.

- 1. Discussion on the future roadmap for sustainable future of Dankuni lowlands in pursuance of the order of The Hon'ble High Court at Kolkata dated 29.11.2013 in the case of PUBLIC & another Vs. Union of India & Ors. (WP 461 of 2013)**

Dr. Rajarshi Chakraborty informed the members that ADM & DLLRO, Hooghly had provided the land details and mouza maps indicating the present status of land. The Chairman informed the

members that ADMLR was due to come but had informed him of her inability to attend the meeting due to some unavoidable work related to the election process. The land details and mouza maps were then placed before the members. It was found that in the land details that most of the land plots are recorded as 'Sali'. Shri R Foning Lepcha told that the Fisheries department can provide waterbody-map of the area which is based on satellite imagery. He further suggested that such maps might be procured by the committee. His suggestion was backed by Shri H. Singha Roy. Shri Santanu Chacraverti wanted to know from Shri Lepcha whether ground-truthing had been done for preparation of such maps. Shri Lepcha replied in affirmative. Other members also agreed that if such maps could be obtained it might serve as a powerful aid to determine the actual nature of the area.

Shrimati Banani Kakkar insisted on field visit so that actual situation on the ground may be judged by the members.

It was decided that the Fisheries department would be requested to provide the maps at the earliest. The members would go through the maps in the next meeting and follow it with an immediate field visit.

2. Hearing of M/s Unnayan Developers Pvt. Ltd.

Earlier M/s Unnayan Developers Pvt. Ltd had requested a hearing from the committee. In the 31st meeting the members decided to invite them for hearing in the next meeting.

Mr P Dastidar, Managing Director, Unnayan Developers Pvt. Ltd., attended the hearing. He told the committee that his company is in possession of about 22.94 bigha of land out of which 1.4 bigha is recorded as 'pukur' while the rest is Sali. He expressed his grievance at the fact that the Sub Divisional Officer without giving any notice had started excavating earth from his plot. Shri Chandan Chayan Guha asked whether he has some evidence to prove his allegation like photographs showing previous and present condition of his plot. Mr Dastidar replied that he could provide such photographs. The Chairman enquired about what he intended to do in the plot. Mr Dastidar informed that he intended to build a small scale industrial hub. He further informed that he had not done in filling up of his land.

After hearing the members asked him to submit the following documents-

- a) Copy of deeds of his land.
- b) The copy of the submission of his company in the Hon'ble High Court in WP 461 of 2013.
- c) Photographs showing previous and present condition of his plot.

3. Undertaking regarding protection of waterbodies submitted by M/s Ultratech cement Ltd.

The undertaking was studied by the members. Some of the members wanted the undertaking to be verified by the district authority. Shrimati Banani Kakkar told that the petitioners might be allowed to be present during field enquiry.

The Chairman told that the District Magistrate, Hooghly would be requested to cause a field verification of the undertaking. The District Magistrate would be further requested so that the petitioners might be informed and allowed to remain present during field enquiry.

4. To decide the course of action on the applications received for clearance of projects in Dankuni lowlands

The members observed that a number of applications have been received for granting them required clearance. Decision was kept pending.

5. Letter received from Sri Sachindranath Coomar

The members found that the complainant had stated that sufficient action has not been taken based on the order passed by the Committee in the case of Soumak Kumar Ghosh vs State of West Bengal & Ors. It was decided that the complaint would be forwarded to the District Magistrate, Howrah for taking necessary action.

The meeting then ended with thanks to everyone.



(Prasanta Kumar Sarkar)
Chairman, High Power Committee &
Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution control Board