

**PROCEEDINGS OF ENVIRONEMNTAL PUBLIC HEARING HELD IN THE PREMISES OF M/S SRI SAI SAPTHAGIRI SPONGE PVT LTD AT BELGAL VILLAGE, BALLARI TALUK AND DISTRICT ON 18-01-2016 AT 11.00 AM IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SPONGE IRON PLANT OF CAPACITY – 90,000 TPA, TMT BARS – 60,000 TPA, INDUCTION FURNACE – 60,000 TPA AND POWER PLANT OF CAPACITY – 6MW (5MW – WHRB & 1MW – AFBC) AT THE EXISTING INDUSTRY PREMISES AT SY.NO.83A & 76, BELGAL VILLAGE, BALLARI TALUK AND DISTRICT.**

- 1) Venue of Public hearing : premises of  
M/s. Sri Sai Sapthagiri Sponge Pvt. Ltd.,  
Sy.No. 83A & 76, Belgal Village,  
Ballari Taluk and District.
- 2) Officers present : Annexure -1
- 3) Representatives of the Project : Annexure -2
- 4) Name of the Public participants : ----
- 5) Written opinions/suggestions  
received in the meeting : Annexure - 3

**PREAMBLE:**

M/s Sri Sai Sapthagiri Sponge Pvt Ltd, Sy No.83A & 76, Belgal Village, Ballari Taluk and District is an existing industry engaged in the manufacture of sponge iron (1X50 TPD Kiln). This plant has been established during 2008 without obtaining CFE / CFO from the Board and without obtaining Environmental Clearance from SEIAA / MOEF. Hence, the Board has issued closure directions to the plant under the provisions of Water Act & Air Act. Also filed two criminal cases against the industry namely CC No.1244/2012 & PC No.107/2015 at JMFC, Ballari for the said violations.

Now the industry has proposed to establish new sponge iron plant of capacity – 90,000 TPA, TMT Bars – 60,000 TPA, Induction furnace – 60,000 TPA and Power Plant of capacity 6MW (5MW – WHRB & 1MW –AFBC) at the existing industry premises. As per notification of Ministry of Environment and Forest, GOI Dated 14.09.2006, M/s Sri Sai Sapthagiri Sponge Pvt. Ltd., has to obtain Environmental Clearance for its proposed expansion project from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, GOI, New Delhi, and also it is mandatory to conduct Environmental Public hearing.

Accordingly, MOEF has issued the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this project to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. In view of the above, the Project Proponents have prepared the EIA report and Executive summary of the said Project in Kannada and English version which has been submitted to Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari in accordance with EIA notification. As per MOEF,GOI terms of reference (TOR) letter No. F.No. J-11011/43/2014-IA.II(I) dtd.19-05-2014 and request of the project proponent letter dtd.28-08-2015,

the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board. In accordance with the EIA Notification, the Environmental Public Hearing notification was published in leading news papers of Karnataka State, i.e."Udayavani", (Kannada) on 18-12-2015 and "The Time of India" (English ) on 18-12-2015 and also in "Ee Namma Kannada Naadu" & "Sanjevani" local Kannada news papers on 19-12-2015 regarding the Project by inviting responses in writing from the concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity within 30 days from the date of publication of the Notification.

Further, Also, the draft Rapid Environment Impact Assessment (REIA) report and Executive summary were kept in the designated places like Deputy Commissioner Office, Ballari, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Ballari, District Industry Centre, Ballari, Ballari City Corporation Office, Ballari, Village Panchayat, Belgal Village, Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari, South Zone Office, MOEF, Bangalore and Help desk, KSPCB, Bangalore for public reference.

The Environmental Public Hearing was organised on 18-01-2016 in the premises of M/s Sri Sai Saphthagiri Sponge Pvt. Ltd., Sy. No.83A & 76, Belgal Village, Ballari Taluk and District. Sri Vijay Mahantesh Danammanavar, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC),Ballari District who presided on behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Ballari, and Sri Gopalkrishna B.Sanatangi, Environmental Officer, Regional Office, KSPCB, Ballari was present during Public Hearing meeting.

Accordingly, Sri Vijay Mahantesh Danammanavar, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC),Ballari District informed the public that the industry representative will make presentation of the proposed project and then after the gathered public can speak about the proposed project, same will be recorded both photos and video and the public opinion will be forwarded to MoEF for further action.However the public gathered have stopped presentation as well as public hearing process and requested for postponement of the public hearing meeting. The presentation prepared by the project proponent is enclosed as **Annexure-4**.


The public did not allow to conduct public hearing make presentation and objected the expansion of M/s Sai Saphthagiri Sponge Pvt Ltd and submitted representations in writing. None of the public spoke in the meeting. However, the following Publics/Organisations have submitted written statements / Suggestions/Opinions on the Proposed Project:-


1. **Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, Ballari Jilla Ghataka** : In their representation they stated that the industry has not installed air pollution control equipments, not constructed compound wall around the plant, not given employment to surrounding villagers and caused damage to surrounding agriculture fields. They opposed to give permission for re-opening of the plant and expansion of the plant.

- 2. Sri Govinda Naik & Others, Belgal Village :** They stated in the representation that the entire Belgal village people are opposing this plant and due to pollution from this plant and their people are suffering from disease. Further stated that the other plants in this area have established but they have not provided infrastructure facilities, health facilities and employment to this village and they have not installed / operating ESP's for control air pollution. They opposed to give permission for the expansion project.
- 3. Sri Bhoja Naik, Farmer, Belgal Village :** He stated in the representation that he has un-divided family with 25 acres agriculture land and these industries are not giving compensation for crop loss. Due to emissions from these plants the surrounding crops and trees have damaged and affected on public health and animals. . He opposed to give permission for the expansion project.
- 4. Sri Vootkuri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Shivaji Nagar, Nalgond District, Telangana State :** He stated in the representation about to collect health status of people, crop production status and ground water availability within 10km and to incorporate this in base line survey study, take action for rain water harvesting. Take up plantations priority to plant fruit bearing plants and medicinal plants instead of normal plants, give priority to local youth for employment, promote skill development training to unemployed youth and CSR budget shall be made by the industry. He supported the proposed expansion project.
- 5. Sri T. Doddabasavana Gouda, State President, Karnataka Rajya Krushi Antharjala Aranya Abhiruddi & Malinya Spotaka Niyantrana Raitha Sangha, Ballari & others :** They stated in the representation that this industry has not provided any facilities to surrounding villages and polluting the surrounding environment. They stated that the industry will pollute the streams and causes damage to agriculture crops and health affects on surrounding public. They urged all departments to give justification on the matter and they requested to cancel the public hearing meeting. They opposed to give permission for the expansion project.
- 6. President, Village Panchayat, B.Belgal and others :** They stated in their representation that the pollution control board and the industry has not given information to the surrounding villagers on this public hearing meeting of the proposed expansion project. Further, the existing industries in this area are polluting the environment, they are not operating ESP's, not taken up plantation and dust is spreading in the surrounding agricultural fields and public are suffering from several diseases. They opposed to give permission for the expansion project.

The above six representations submitted by the public / organisations are enclosed as **Annexure – 3**.

Finally, the Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing informed the gathering that since no one is willing to express his views on the project, hence he will not conduct the hearing and informed that the said matter will be submitted to the concerned authorities for further action.

  
**Additional Deputy Commissioner,**  
**Ballari**  
and Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee,  
Ballari.

  
17/02/16