



Simon de Souza
Fmr. Dy. Speaker
Chairman- Toddy Tappers W. F. Board
Executive Member-Goa Legislator's Forum

18 July 2016.

To:
The Member Secretary,
Goa State Pollution Control Board,
Dempo Towers, Patto Plaza,
Panaji Goa 403 001.

Sub: Environmental Public Hearing on proposed expansion of Zuari Agro Chemicals plant at Zuarinagar, additional submissions – regarding.

Sir,

I was one of the handful members of the 'public' present at the environmental public hearing regarding proposed expansion of Zuari Agro Chemicals plant at Zuarinagar Sancoale held on 11th July 2016, and made some preliminary submissions which have been recorded in the minutes of the hearing. I would like to canvass some more submissions for consideration of the MoEF&CC and the project proponent in the final EIA, as follows:-

1. The CSR activities of Zuari Agro Chemicals Ltd (ZACL) and their sister companies are largely restricted to the immediate vicinity of their plant i.e. Zuarinagar area, whereas the rest of Sancoale village is ignored. The CSR projects assured under the Draft EIA Report ought to encompass the entire jurisdiction of the Village Panchayat of Sancoale so that the benefits reach all villagers equitably.

It must be remembered that it is the rest (lower part) of Sancoale village that has borne the major brunt of the environmental pollution caused by the ZACL fertilizer plant and by the illegal shanties that came up during the construction phase in the 1970s and continues till today.

2. It is well known that soils of large part of lower Sancoale village have been irreparably contaminated by pollution caused by ZACL fertilizer plant over the last 30 - 40 years. Our once fertile agricultural lands have been fouled to such an extent that it is not possible to cultivate certain species of plants/trees. Decontamination of such polluted soils - considered in passing in the Draft EIA Report - must be undertaken in the right earnest and within a specific time frame. During my MLAs hip in the '80s, during the zero hour, I had raised the issue of pollution and also, of the then dying fishes by exhibiting a few of them and placing on the table of the house.
3. Similarly, lakes and water bodies in lower part of Sancoale village have been contaminated by the ZACL fertilizer plant. Immediate steps must be taken to prevent further pollution of these

4. The Comunidade of Sancoale, of which I am a shareholder, had agreed to grant land to then Birla Gwalior Ltd on condition that employment would be given to inhabitants of Sancoale village. This is part of the record. However, it is apparent that this condition was never satisfactorily met by ZACL. The standard excuse I have received over the years is that there are no adequate technically trained people among Sancoale residents. I would submit that it is incumbent on ZACL to ensure adequate training facilities in technical and other trades to Sancoale residents so as to make them directly or indirectly employable in ZACL.
5. There must be more direct interaction or interface between the ZACL management and the people residing in the vicinity, particularly in villages of Sancoale, Velsão Pale Issorcim, Cortalim, Bogmalo and Vasco city. The public hearing was a good occasion for such interface, but unfortunately there was a very poor turnout due to lack of publicity. It would provide the top management of ZACL to learn about the concerns of the villagers and vice-versa, so that plant operations run smoothly in an environmentally and socially acceptable manner.
6. In this period of rising terrorist activities, more stringent and urgent precautionary measures must be taken to safeguard the Chemical Tanks & specially, the HORTONSPHERE, should this explode, and God forbid, either, by accident or plane crash, then everything, within the radius of 10 kilometres, will be completely destroyed. So, Let us not have another "Bhopal" tragedy.

Sir, I urge your good self to please take necessary steps and thus try to restore our historic Sancoale village, specially the contaminated fields to its original condition.

God Bless you!

Regards

Your's Sincerely


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