

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED FOR THE PROPOSED
EXPANSION OF M/s.ARS STEELS AND ALLOY INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE
LIMITED, LOCATED AT SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, GUMMIDIPOONDI**

Date: 08.04.2025

Time: 10.30 a.m.,

Venue: Jayakumari Hall, JFN Paradise, Pethikuppam Gate, Gummidipoondi.

Present:

1. Thiru A. Rajkumar, District Revenue Officer, Tiruvallur.
2. Thiru P.S. Livingston, District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Gummidipoondi.

The List of Public and the representatives of the industry attended the Public Hearing is appended with this minutes.

The District Environmental Engineer requested the District Revenue Officer, Tiruvallur to preside over the Public Hearing. District Revenue Officer welcomed all the participants and the officials, and informed that presentation about the salient features of the project will be done by the representative of the Project Proponent following which the public can express the concerns about the project. He informed that the entire Public Hearing proceedings shall be recorded and send to concerned authorities.

Thiru P Gopinath, Eco Tech Labs, Chennai, the EIA Consultant for the project made the presentation about the salient features of the proposed project on behalf of the industry. He informed that M/s. ARS Steels and Alloy International Private Limited, located at SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Gummidipoondi has proposed for their expansion, for which the Public Hearing is being conducted. He informed that the Public Notices about the conduct of the Public Hearing were published in The New Indian Express, English Daily and Dhinathanthi, Tamil Daily, in their issue dated 6th March, 2025, and also in the web portal of Tamil nadu Pollution Control Board. He added that M/s. ARS Steels and Alloy International Private Limited, Proposed to expand the capacity of their existing Steel Melting Plant from 2,88,000 TPA to

6,00,000 TPA of MS Billets and the Rolling Mill from 2,50,000 TPA to 5,70,000 TPA of TMT Bars, at an estimated cost of around 196.712 Crores.

He informed that the industry commenced on September 19, 1990, to produce Mild Steel Ingots and started its own automatic rolling mill with a capacity of 108000 TPA using the latest technology and well-equipped infrastructure. The company received ISO 9002 certification in 2005 for its quality control activities. The company grew rapidly and became one of the largest advanced integrated steel plants in South India.

He further informed that in the industry a new furnace for the production of iron billets with capacity of 108000 MTPA was added and to increase the Rolling Mill Capacity from 108000 TPA to 128000 TPA of TMT bars and meanwhile the existing Rolling Mill was modernized into a Direct Charging Mill and the ingot plant was converted into a billet plant and that the industry started hot charging its billets to reduce production costs. It is also informed that the industry installed Bag Filter arrangements for the control of air pollution in 2022, and that the bag filter is provided with an interlock system so that the furnace automatically shuts off if the bag filter becomes fault.

Thiru Gopinath indicated that the total area of the land for the project is 4.51 Hectares and the built- up area is 1.24 Hectares and proposed to enhance the production at an estimated cost of Rs.45.87 Crores, the water requirement for the project is 136 KLD of which the fresh water requirement is 53 KLD and the remaining 83 KLD would be met through recycling, and the fresh water requirement would be met by SIPCOT supply, that the power requirement is 55000 KVA, that the proposed project will provide direct employment to about 350 persons and to another 300 persons indirectly, the sewage generation by the workmen shall be 14 KLD, which would be treated through Sewage Treatment Plant of 30 KLD capacity, and the effluent from the process to the tune of 69 KLD would be recycled, the emission from the Induction Furnace will be passed through Bag Filter and let through chimney of 30 m height. He added that out of the project of Rs. 45.87 Crores, Rupees One Crore would be for the Environmental Management Plan and a sum of Rs.46 Lakhs

is assigned for the development of the local areas under Socio-Economic Development Plan.

The Consultant showed the map showing the location of the project site, map showing the areas within a radius of 10 kms from the project site - which constitutes the study area, map showing the locations of various surveys conducted. Then he briefed about the setting of the project site, and stated that the project site is located within SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Latitude and Longitude of the site as 13°25'20.55"N, 80°6'29.32"E, the site is located at an altitude of 28 m from Mean Sea Level, Nearest Highway is National Highway NH-16 located at a distance of 0.7 Km from the project site, the nearest Railway Station is Gummidipoondi located at a distance of 2.2 k.m., from the site, Chennai International Air Port is located at a distance of 46.7 k.m., from the site, nearest habitation is Kayalarmedu located at a distance of 0.4 k.m and Gummidipoondi Town is located at 1.7 Km. He informed that Arani River, an important water body of the area is located at a distance of 7.2 k.m., and that two Reserved Forests viz. Puliur Reserve Forest is located at a distance of 6.8 km, Manali Reserve Forest located at a distance of 9.8 km, and indicated that Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary is located at a distance of 6.48 km, from the project site, that no place of military importance or historically important place is located within 10 k.m. radius and also there is no displacement in the Socio economic factor around the Project Site.

Briefing about the layout of the industry, the consultant informed after expansion the built-up area would be over 27.5%, Scrap Yard would be 10.2%, Steel wire would be 7.1% storage area, Solid waste storage area would be 6.7%, Green Belt area would be over 33.7%, Road would be 13.3%, Open space area would be 1.5%. He also explained about the Structural diagram of the plant. He informed that the Mild Steel Scrap along with other raw materials, such as sponge iron would be melted in Induction Furnaces, to which the other metallurgical ingredients like chemicals would be added, impurities removed as slag, molten metal collected in ladles, made in to Billets in Continuous Casting Machine, which would be then rolled to TMT Bars and other Structural in the three stage Rolling Mill. The consultant briefed the production process with a diagram and then elaborated about the raw

materials required, water requirement for various purposes and presented the water balance diagram.

Then the consultant informed that the studies on environment such as air quality, weather and water quality etc., were carried out for a radial distance of 10 k.m., between June 2024 to August 2024, and briefly explained about the values of metrological data observed during the study period. He informed that the air quality was assessed at eight locations, wherein the level of various air pollutants such as dust particles below 10 micron size, dust below 2.5 micron size, Sulphur Dioxide, and Oxides of Nitrogen were assessed and presented the values in a Table, and informed that the values are within the Standards prescribed in National Ambient Air Quality. It is also informed that the Ground Water Quality at eight locations were assessed and presented the results in a table, and indicated that the quality of Ground Water is within the Standards prescribed in IS: 10500, and stated that the analysis of the soil samples in eight locations revealed that the type of soil is sandy and the levels of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potash revealed that the soil found in the study area is "moderate", and that the study on the ambient noise quality conducted in all the study areas, day and night sound levels are within the limits set for the respective areas, and presented the observed values, informed that they are within the standards prescribed. The consultant informed that, the biological study revealed that there are 30 species of common type plant species and 46 types of common animal species found in the study area and that no endangered species is found within the study area.

He informed about the Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Plan. Then the Impact on land use was explained. The proposed project will be implemented on a land area of approximately 4.51 hectares. 33% green cover will be established around the project site, and therefore, the project is not likely to have any adverse impact on the land.

On explaining the impact of the project on the various components of the environment, the consultant informed that in as much as the project is proposed only within the existing industrial premises, there would not be any adverse impact on land environment, the level of air pollutant on air environment during the operation of

the Induction Furnace and Re-Heating Furnace are assessed with the help of the approved (AERMOD model – USEPA METHOD), which showed that the level of Particulate Matter below 10 micron size (PM₁₀) at 71.73 micrograms per cubic meter, Sulphur Dioxide at 30.78 micrograms per cubic meter and Oxides of Nitrogen at 46.13 micrograms per cubic meter, which are below the standards prescribed for Ambient Air Quality in Industrial and Residential Areas. It is also informed by the Consultant that a Blower of 200,000 cu.m./ Hour Capacity is proposed to collect/ the fumes/smoke/ emission from the Induction and Re-Heating Furnaces, which would be passed through Bag Filter arrangement and the cleaned air would be passed through a Chimney of 111.54 feet (34 m) height. He pointed out that this dust control device has been designed so that the dust level emitted from the furnace will be below 50 mg/Nm³ and the cost for this system would be Rs. 90 Lakhs. As regards the effluent management, the consultant informed that out of the total water requirement of 136 KLD, 83 KLD is met through recycling of treated effluent and the remaining 53 KLD would be met through SIPCOT sources of water, , sewage generated would be treated through Sewage Treatment Plant, and the treated sewage would be used for tree plantation. It is also informed that in the Plant, rain water harvesting structures would be provided. He further informed that the noise generating equipments such as Rolling Mill, Blower, Cooling Tower, Compressor and DG Set would be maintained between 70 db(A) and 85 db(A) and necessary acoustic enclosures would be provided for the noise generating equipments to control noise and ear plugs would be supplied to workers so that they would not felt the noise, and that the noise levels are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The consultant informed that the solid waste generated such as furnace slag, waste steel pieces, mill scale would be recycled to the extent possible.

The consultant, while informing that the industry is located in Industrial area and that no endangered species flora or fauna is found in the study area, pointed out green belt would be developed in 33.3% of the total land area, ie around 250 saplings would be planted over 1.52 Hectares of land, direct employment would be generated for 350 persons and another 300 persons would be employed indirectly, the company would help for the educational, health, sports and recreational/women development of the surrounding areas. He also explained that the industry will help

in water table desilting water bodies, tree plantation along the roads, development of schools in the nearby villages, medical equipment and medical camps in rural areas. It is planned to provide basic necessities like uniforms, computers and notebooks to school children in the area free of cost. All the above projects are to be implemented at a cost of Rs. 46 lakhs.

The consultant concluded his presentation, stating that by implementing the environmental management plan during the planning, execution and operational phases, and by operating the pollution control measures effectively, the adverse impact on the environment would be mitigated and that the project would be beneficial for the social and economic development of the nearby areas. Furthermore, the steel products produced through this project will help bridge the gap between supply and demand and improve the economy of the project site and the surrounding area.

Then the District Environmental Engineer, Gummidipoondi requested the Public to offer their views about the project. He informed that opportunity would be given to every-one to offer their views and requested to inform their name and the place from where they belong to, before expressing the views and that all the views expressed would be recorded and communicated to the concerned authorities for the required action.

Thiru Jayachandran, Pappankuppam, former Union Councillor informed that the factory is hardly 200 to 300 meters away from the habitation, and functioning for about 20 years. While he welcome the expansion, wanted that employment opportunities should be given to local people. He pointed out that the employment opportunity given to the locals is very low and wanted that Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to carry out night inspections to ensure that the industries are operating their air pollution control measures properly. He informed that Pollution is a major concern in Gummidipoondi area and pointed out of the News Item published in one Tamil Daily, which claimed that the air quality in Gummidipoondi is very bad and not suitable for living. He informed that the lands belonging to the locals were acquired for a very low price during the 1980s, and today, land values are much higher; but k then, the Government promised development and asked us to give up our lands without objection. Our elders trusted them and gave up their lands willingly,

expecting progress and employment for locals, but that did not happen. He wanted that the CSR activities are to be done by the industries for local areas and employment be given to the local people, and wanted that RO Plant for Gummidipoondi Government Hospital be provided.

Thiru.Prabhakaran, Sindhalakuppam informed that the people from S R Kandigai and Sindhalakuppam area are very few in numbers and that hardly 10 persons from this area is participating. He informed that the hamlet is hardly 100 m from the factory and informed that because of the emission from the industry the vehicles parked and the plants are becoming black, and when this is the scenario, what would happen when the capacity is increased from 2,80,000 TPA to 6,00,000 TPA. He informed that the operation of the plant is resulting in huge noise even at his house located at a distance of 300 m, and expressed his concerns for the houses located closer by. He indicated that he is not against development; but expressed that the water bodies are affected, there is no green belt at all, the assurances on employment to locals is only an eye-wash, no promises made are fulfilled, no CSR activity is carried out. He further informed that the Public Hearing is being conducted without adequate publicity and that the local people are not aware of the conduct of public hearing. He further added that the works related to the expansion of the industry has already commenced in violation of the rules, air quality is poor and in the mornings the area is full of smoke, there's no clean water even to water the plants, they are unable to get drinking water. He expressed that the Public Hearing appears to be a formality rather than a genuine attempt to involve the public, that they are not speaking against development; but only demanding transparency.

Selvi Poornima, Gummidipoondi informed that she is working in ARS Steels & Alloy Private Limited, and expressed that the situation mentioned is related not only to this industry; but in all establishments, which was objected by the participants.

Thiru Jayachandran, Pappankuppam informed that the industry has commenced the works related to expansion, and indicated that Gummidipoondi stood number one place in air pollution within Tamil Nadu and pointed out that there is no greenery at all in the existing premises, their houses near the factory are covered with black soot, and forced to repaint every three months. He further informed that the health condition of the villagers is affected and around 25-30% of

the villagers are suffering from kidney-related ailment. He informed that people are accepting this condition not by choice; but without any option and pointed out that the air quality has deteriorated drastically and that the rate of respiratory issues is very high. He further stated that when 80 % of the smoke generated is letting through the roof there is no use in advanced air pollution control systems, greenery is not at all maintained in the existing plant, the company has not done any CSR work for the past 20 years, no employment opportunity given for the local people, and that toxic materials such as Lead, Arsenic, Phosphorous, Mercury are found in the soil. He wanted that Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has to declare there shall not be any more new industry in the area, and thereby no new adverse impacts.

Thiru Jayachandran further added that there is lack of transparency and Public Hearings are not effective, and stated that Newspaper advertisements do not reach our community many people do not read newspapers, and there's no proper announcement and if public consultations are real, they should be announced locally even a simple auto with a loudspeaker two days prior would be effective and informed that people working in the company should not be part of public hearings, as they are biased. He demanded that a fresh public hearing must be conducted, proper inspection of the industry's green area (33% greenery) must be enforced and said that presently there is not even a single tree exists, regular monitoring and enforcement by Government Departments, and if norms are violated, necessary action must be taken. He wondered as to how expansion is being proposed for an industry for which disconnection of power supply was ordered some two years earlier by TNPCB, for not following the pollution norms.

Thiru Sunantha Reddy from Telangana State, spoke in Telugu, which is translated in to English. He informed that the purpose of this meeting is to see if the expansion of the industry is causing pollution to the air, water and soil, and if so measures to mitigate the same, and wanted that the environmental management for the industries should be undertaken by Government. He added that there is need for industrial development, employment and a clean environment and that the people should not have any problems, and to achieve this he suggested that rules should be

amended in such a way that the environmental management is undertaken by Government. ,

Thiru.Venugopal from Kadappaa, informed that Joint committee must be formed to resolve the problems, problem to be taken to management to get a solution, medicated plants should be planted for supportive environment, medical camps to be conducted, medical insurance to be provided for workers and their families, personal protective equipments to be supplied to worker, industry should support for the development of schools, temples etc.

Thiru. C S R Murali, Pappankuppam Village while welcoming the project, required that employment opportunities be given to locals, continuous support shall be extended for free medical service centre, Greenery/ Tree Plantation shall be developed in Chinthalakuppam area, RO plants provided to meet the drinking water needs of locals, has been conducted, likewise in the area of chintalakuppam, plantation of trees by the people has been promised by industry which should be done. Family member and cows has been affected by the pollution.

Thiru Subbiah informed that that the employment opportunities be given to project affected villages, carry out the project with the approvals from TNPCB and MoEF&CC. Locals expressed their objection on the participation of outsiders in the Public Hearing. To this District Environmental Engineer clarified that the purpose of Public Hearing is receiving the concerns of the project affected communities and to address their concerns, thereby the adverse impacts could be mitigated; not for those merely extending support for the project.

Thiru. Rajendran, Pappankuppam Village informed that the Gummidipoondi area has been declared as unfit for human settlement, and that be the case, why the extension of industries are allowed and commented that after causing pollution and then providing health support is of no use.

Thiru.Murali, Pappankuppam expressed that the Public Hearing has to be redone and that people from Pappankuppam are not attending and none of the women from the village is participating and added that adequate publicity about the conduct of Public Hearing is not done. He wanted to know as to how the workers are

employed for over 12 hours, whether any approval granted for the stay of workers within the industrial premises, any approval granted for the construction of labour-sheds within the factory, adequate fire-fighting system is in place, no register maintained for the fatal accidents and death of workmen are settled with compensation. He added that the water got polluted, could not sleep outside in night times, white shirts becomes black, that the house to be cleaned everyday and the water to be checked in the village. He reiterated that the Public Hearing to be redone informing the local people.

At the end of the Public Hearing, 24 representations, mainly in the name of organizations located outside the State were also received.

The District Environmental Engineer summed up the proceedings of the meeting to the participants and thanked every-one for their co-operation for the smooth conduct of the Public Hearing.

The meeting came to an end.


District Environmental Engineer,
TamilNadu Pollution Control Board,
Gummidipoondi.


District Revenue Officer,
Tiruvallur,

To

The Member Secretary,
State Environmental Impact Assessment
Authority for Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN),
3rd Floor, Panagal Maligai,
No.: 1, Jennis Road, Saidapet,
Chennai – 600 015.

Copy to the Project Proponent

**STATEMENT OF ISSUES RAISED IN THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED FOR
THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF M/s. ARS STEELS AND ALLOY
INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED, LOCATED SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL
COMPLEX, GUMMIDIPOONDI ON 08.04.2025.**

S. No.	Issues raised	Response
1	When the existing plant is not having any Green Belt and not having land to develop Green Belt, how Green Belt will be developed during expansion?	...
2	When the impact of 2,80,000 TPA itself is unbearable, what will happen if it is expanded to 6,00,000 TPA.	...
3	The industry already commenced the work related to expansion is violation of Rules.	...

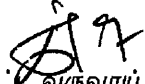

District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Gummidipoondi.


District Revenue Officer,
Tiruvallur.

சிப்காட் தொழிற்பேட்டை சூம்மிடிப்பூண்டியில் அமைந்துள்ள தி/ள்.எ.ஆர்.எஸ். ஸ்டீல்ஸ் அன்ட் அலாய் இண்டர்நேஷனல் பிரைவேட் லிமிடெட் தொழிற்சாலையின் விரிவாக்கம் குறித்து 08.04.2025 அன்று நடைபெற்ற பொதுமக்கள் கருத்து கேட்பு கூட்டத்தில் பிரச்சனைகள் குறித்த பட்டியல்

வ. எண்.	எழுப்பப்பட்ட பிரச்சனை	விளக்கம்
1	தற்போதுள்ள தொழிற்சாலையில் பசுமை வளையம் இல்லாத நிலை உள்ளது, மேலும் பசுமை வளையம் உருவாக்க நிலம் இல்லாத பட்சத்தில், விரிவாக்கத்தின் போது பசுமைப் வளையம் எவ்வாறு உருவாக்கப்படும்?	...
2	தொழிற்சாலையின் உற்பத்தி திறனானது ஆண்டிற்கு 2,88,000டன் இருக்கும் பொழுதே பாதிப்பு அதிக அளவு இருக்கும் நிலையில் அதன் உற்பத்தி திறனை ஆண்டிற்கு 6,00,000 டன்னாக உயர்த்தும் பட்சத்தில் அதிக அளவு பாதிப்பு ஏற்படும் நிலை உள்ளது	...
3	தொழிற்சாலையானது விதிகளை மீறி விரிவாக்கத்திற்கான பணிகளை ஏற்கனவே தொடங்கியுள்ளது	...


மாவட்ட சுற்றுச்சூழல் பொறியாளர்,
தமிழ்நாடு மாகாண கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியம்,
சூம்மிடிப்பூண்டி


மாவட்ட வருவாய் அலுவலர்,
திருவள்ளூர்

