

Ref: VAL/ MK/MOEF/10/002

Date: 15.09.2010

To,
The Advisor (IA)
Scientist 'G'
The Ministry of Environment & Forests
Government of India,
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

[Kind Attention: Dr. Nalini Bhat]

Sub: Reply to Show Cause Notice dated 31st August 2010 issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for withdrawal of TOR for expansion of Alumina Refinery Capacity from 1 MTPA and 75 MW Captive power plant to 6 MTPA Alumina Refinery and 300 MW Captive Power Plant at Lanjigarh in District Kalahandi in Orissa by M/s. Vedanta Aluminium Ltd.

Ref: Your letter no. F.No. J.11011/1103/2007-IA-II (I) dated 31st August 2010.

Dear Madam,

This is with reference to the above referred show-cause notice dated 31.08.2010 issued u/s 5 of Environment Protection Act, 1986 for withdrawal of TOR already granted by MoEF on 12th March 2008 for expansion of Alumina Refinery at Lanjigarh from 1 MTPA to 6 MTPA. This notice was received at the company's office at Lanjigarh on 7th September, 2010.

The following allegations are discernable from the Show Cause notice:

Allegation No.1:

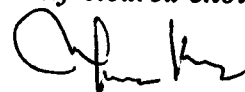
Non-compliance of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 (Paras 13-14 of Show Cause Notice).

Allegation No.2:

Unregulated expansion of alumina refinery could cause long term ecological and environmental impacts due to fugitive emissions including mercury generation of red mud beyond the approved activities including the long term health impacts, etc.(Para 12 of Show Cause Notice)

Allegation No.3:

Out of 14 mines from which bauxite is to be sourced, only one mine has obtained environmental clearance. The unit does not have environmentally cleared enough source of bauxite [Para 9(ii) of the Show Cause Notice].



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Our reply to each of these allegations is as follows:

Allegation No.1:

Non-compliance of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

Response:

- i. No particulars have been given as to in what manner paragraph 1 of the 2006 Notification has been violated. On the other hand, Paragraph 13 of the Show Cause Notice merely contains a reiteration of the contents of para 1 of the 2006 Notification, and states that:

“Para 13. Whereas the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of 14.9.2006 at its para 1 stipulates that construction of new projects or activities or expansion or modernisation of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this Notification and entailing capacity addition with change in the process and/ or technology shall be undertaken only after the prior environment clearance from the Central Government or as the case may be from the State level Impact Assessment Authority duly constituted by the Central Government”

Para 1 of the 2006 notification is also extracted below, for ready reference:

“Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and in supersession of the notification number S.O. 60 (E) dated the 27th January, 1994, except in respect of things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby directs that on and from the date of its publication the required construction of new projects or activities or the expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification entailing capacity addition with change in process and or technology shall be undertaken in any part of India only after the prior environmental clearance from the Central Government or as the case may be, by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, duly constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, in accordance with the procedure specified hereinafter in this notification.

- ii) It will be noticed that there is no indication in para 13 of the Show Cause Notice as to which are the aspects of para 1 of the 2006 notification which have been violated or not



complied with in the present case. Is it modernization of the existing project, or is it expansion or capacity addition with change of process or change of technology? In other words, the subject matter of the allegation/charge of non-compliance, is not set out. It is difficult to answer the allegations in regard to these aspects, all of them being set out cumulatively in paragraph 13 of the Show Cause Notice.

- iii) However, since this is not a new project or a new activity or modernization of an existing project or activity cited in the Schedule, and since no change in process or technology is being undertaken, we would proceed on the basis that the allegation we have to meet is one of expansion of an existing project, entailing capacity addition. This conclusion is being arrived at on the basis of the statement in para 11 of the Show Cause Notice to the effect that we have already proceeded with the construction activity for the “enormous expansion from 1 MTPA to 6 MTPA without obtaining environment clearance...”. If this is not so, we would request you to kindly inform us of the factual basis on which any of the other aspects mentioned in para 1 of the 2006 notification is being roped in.
- iv) Equally, para 14 of Show Cause Notice, which alleges violation of para 2 of the 2006 notification, states :

“14. Whereas the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 in its para 2 stipulates that all the new projects or activities listed in the schedule to the Notification would require prior environmental clearance before any construction work or preparation of land by the project management except for securing the land is started on the project or activity ; and”

The entirety of para 2 of the 2006 notification is also set out below, for ready reference:

2. Requirements of prior Environmental Clearance (EC):- *The following projects or activities shall require prior environmental clearance from the concerned regulatory authority, which shall hereinafter referred to be as the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for matters falling under Category 'A' in the Schedule and at State level the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for matters falling under Category 'B' in the said Schedule, before any construction work, or preparation of land by the project management except for securing the land, is started on the project or activity:*

(i) All new projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification;

(ii) Expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification with addition of capacity beyond the limits specified for the concerned sector, that is, projects

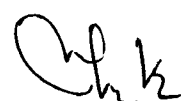


or activities which cross the threshold limits given in the Schedule, after expansion or modernization;

(iii) Any change in product - mix in an existing manufacturing unit included in Schedule beyond the specified range.

- v) Para 14 of the Show Cause Notice also does not set out as to which of the aspects of para 2 of the 2006 notification are alleged to have been violated by us, since obviously the reference to a new project/activity in para 2(i) of the 2006 notification cannot apply to us; and since ours is not a new project or activity listed in the schedule, the matter referred to in para 14 can have no application.
- vi) Perhaps what is intended is to refer to para 2 (ii) of the 2006 notification, which deals with expansion, though it has not been referred to in para 14 of the Show Cause Notice. We shall proceed to deal with show cause notice on the basis that it is para 2 (ii) of the 2006 notification which you have in mind, and shall reply accordingly. If this is not so, please do clarify so that we can deal with the matter appropriately.
- vii) Now coming to the issue raised in para 13 of the Show Cause Notice, a reading of para 1 of the 2006 notification shows that it would be attracted only in a case where the expansion of the existing project listed in the schedule **“entails capacity addition with change in process and/ or technology”**. In the present case, there is an expansion of the existing project entailing capacity addition from 1 MTPA to 6 MTPA, **but this capacity addition is without any change in process and without any change in technology**. The existing process of low temperature and low pressure digestion and Bayer’s process technology shall continue to be used even when the capacity is increased from 1 to 6 MTPA. This has been submitted to the MOEF in the process description given in the EIA and the detailed project report already submitted to the MOEF. Since the present project does not involve any change in process and/or technology, the Government direction would not be applicable in the instant case. So far as the existing project (refinery) is concerned, as you are aware, environmental clearance for the same had been duly obtained by us.
- viii) Coming to the next allegation, contained in para 14 of the show cause notice, to the effect that para 2 of the 2006 notification is violated, it will be seen that expansion of existing projects listed in the schedule is expressly dealt with para 2 (ii). Sub Clause (i) which deals with “new projects or activities” and sub clause (iii) which deals with “change in product mix” have no application in the present case.
- ix) We, therefore, have to examine the applicability of sub clause (ii) of para 2 of the 2006 notification. This provision deals with expansion of existing projects listed in the schedule, *“with addition of capacity beyond the limits specified for the concerned sector, **that is**, projects or activities which cross the threshold limits given in the Schedule, after expansion or modernization”* (emphasis supplied)

We may point out that the Supreme Court of India, in various judgments, has held that the phrase “that is” is one of limitation, and is used to circumscribe, make clear and fix the meaning of what is to be explained. [See *Royal hatcheries pvt ltd vs State of A.P. – AIR 1994 SC 666*, *State of T.N. vs Pyare Lal Malhotra- AIR 1976 SC 800*, *Sait Rikhaji*



Furtarnal vs State of A.P.- AIR 1991 SC 354, CST vs Popular Trading Company – AIR 2000 SC 1578]

- x) The project in question falls under Item 3 (a) of the schedule to the 2006 notification i.e. “Metallurgical Industries (ferrous and non ferrous)”. Against this entry the letter “(a)” in Column 3 of the Schedule refers to “Primary Metallurgical Industry”, and underneath that is stated “all projects”. No threshold limit is mentioned in respect of “Primary Metallurgical Industry”. The industries mentioned in item “(b)” in Column 3 (Sponge iron manufacturing >200TPD) do not cover the present case, nor do the industries mentioned item “(c)” (namely “Secondary Metallurgical Processing Industry”), since this is a ‘Primary Metallurgical Industry’.
- xi) Since all projects, without any threshold limit, are mentioned against Primary Metallurgical Industries, at the stage of establishing the existing refinery the environment clearance was essential which we had duly obtained. However, since no threshold limits exists for ‘Primary Metallurgical Industry’, Para 2(ii) will not apply, as it is only when there is expansion of an existing project, with addition of capacity, **which cross the threshold limit given in the schedule after expansion** that environment clearance is required. In the present case, no question of crossing the threshold limit after expansion can ever arise, as there is no threshold limit specified for Primary Metallurgical Industry.
- xii) We may also add that since the direction contained in paragraph 1 of the 2006 notification itself would not be applicable to the present case, the entirety of paragraph 2 of the Notification, which is procedural in nature, as is evident from the concluding words of para 1 of the notification (“...in accordance with the procedure specified hereinafter in this notification”) would not be attracted. Para 2 of the EIA notification would be attracted only if the company was covered by Paragraph 1 of the 2006 Notification, which it is not. The above submissions in regard to the alleged violation of para 2 of the 2006 notification are without prejudice to this submission, and proceed on the basis of the hypothetical assumption that para 2 of the 2006 notification could apply to a case not covered by paragraph 1 of the said notification.
- xiii. Further it may be noted that the emphasis in the 2006 notification is really on green field projects, whereas the present project is a brown field expansion and does not require any land for installing additional plant facilities immediately. The layout has been prepared in such a manner that all new facilities could be accommodated within the available space of existing plant by optimizing the land requirement.
- xiv. Thus, it cannot be said that there has been a violation of the EIA Notification of 2006. We have never had any intention of violating the law and have always taken abundant precautions in our activities. It has been our bona fide understanding that prior environmental clearance is not required for expansion works. We have also obtained legal opinion in this regard which supports our interpretation of the Notification. In any event, we have also kept the authorities informed from time to time about our construction activities.



Allegation No.2:

Unregulated expansion of alumina refinery could cause long term ecological and environmental impacts due to fugitive emissions including mercury generation of red mud beyond the approved activities including the long term health impacts, etc.

Response:

i. At the outset, it is submitted that it is not clear as to which provision or Rule has been violated which forms the basis of this allegation. There has been no provision mentioned on the basis of which such an allegation has been made. No particulars have been given of the manner in which in the instant case such impact is possible. However, without prejudice to this submission, the following is the response:

ii. ***Mercury pollution:***

Vedanta being an environmentally conscious company, a decision was taken from the beginning that no caustic soda made by mercury process will be used in the plant. Although this has increased the cost of production, but looking into the environmental impact, caustic soda manufactured by Membrane technology is being used. Hence, there is no possibility of any mercury pollution due to increase in capacity as no mercury is available in the bauxite also.

iii. ***Increased load of Red Mud:***

VAL is actively working on “Zero Waste Concept” and has already started making red mud bricks by developing a process in collaboration with Institute of Minerals and Metals Technology, Bhubaneswar (earlier known as RRL, Bhubaneswar, a CSIR Laboratory). It is expected that the goal of Zero Waste concept may be achieved in next five to six years. This road map has been developed for the first time in the world and will help Alumina industries across the globe in addressing all the environmental issues of alumina refinery. As a matter abundant precaution, creation of additional red mud pond has been envisaged in the EIA. A copy of the road map for Zero Waste is attached at **Annexure ‘A’**.

iv. ***Fugitive Emission:***

In VAL, precautions are taken from the conceptual stage of the project to ensure that fugitive emissions during constructions & operations should remain well within the applicable norms. In the existing plant also, the state of art technologies like pipe conveyor for material movement, dry fog system for dust suppression, Bag filters for dust collection, Wet Scrubbing system for plant like lime handling, Vacuum cleaners for road and unit cleaning, water Sprinkler for outside and inside road & green belt within the plant and around periphery of the plant etc. are being used It is only because of such stringent measures, that no problems of fugitive emission have been faced within and outside the plant area. It will be ensured that ecology of the area is further improved and there is no adverse impact due to any of our activities on the surrounding.

v. ***Occupational health issues:***

For the last three years there has been continuous monitoring of the health of the employees of the company. In this regard references already made to the extracts of the report of Dr. V.P

Upadhyay wherein the health measures adopted by the company have been lauded. All the records were shown and submitted to **Director (s) Regional Office, Bhubhaneshwar, MoEF, Dr. V.P. Upadhyay** and the same is reflected in his report also. It is noteworthy that the Dr. V.P. Upadhyay Report has observed *"The industry has a good facility for health monitoring. In addition to health surveillance by in-house health specialist, the industry also has taken experts from regional Labour Institute, Kolkata for occupational health monitoring of the employees. Rehabilitation colony has been provided with hospital where families from the rehabilitated village as well as local population from other villages are provided medical facilities free of cost.*

Allegation No.3:

Out of 14 mines from which bauxite is to be sourced, only one mine has obtained environmental clearance. The unit does not have environmentally cleared enough source of bauxite [Para 9(ii) of the show cause notice].

Response:

- i. Although the issue has nothing to do with the expansion project and has already been answered in the show cause notice on the existing refinery the same is being answered herein. The MOEF had vide a letter dated 15.6.2006 accorded approval to VAL to source bauxite from mines which has already obtained environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 1994. A copy of the said letter dated 15.06.2006 is annexed herewith as **Annexure 'B'**. In this regard it may be noted that the requirement of EC for mines has come into force only after the issuance of the EIA Notification of 1994. It is to be noted that the requirement of Environmental Clearance for Mines has come into force only after issue of EIA 1994 Notification which states that *"Central Government direct that on and from publication of this notification in the official gazette, expansion or modernization of any mines (If pollution load is to exceed the existing one or any new mine) EC is required from Central Government"*. Thus, in case of mines operating before 1994 which have neither increased the capacity nor the lease area, no environmental clearance is required. In the instant case, none of the mines from which bauxite is being sourced have increased their capacity or lease area after 1994.
- ii. The list of suppliers from Jharkhand is attached as **Annexure 'C'**. The parties are having mining lease and operating the mine for many years even prior to 1994 when no such clearance was required. In some cases mining lease had expired and application for renewal was also submitted on time. However renewal was not made till date and therefore the lease is deemed to have been extended under Rule 24A of the Mineral Concession Rules till the State Government passes any further orders. A copy of the relevant extract of the mineral concession rules is annexed hereto as **Annexure 'D'**. Various entities such as SAIL, OMCL and other Public Sector Undertaking which are involved in mining are also following the same practice. In fact it is only on 2.7.2007 that it was finally clarified by the MOEF that *"all such mining projects which did not require environmental clearance under*



*the EIA notification, 1994 would continue to operate without obtaining environmental clearance till the mining lease falls due for renewal, if there is no increase in lease area and /or there is no enhancement of production. In the event of increase in lease area and/or production, such projects would need to obtain prior environmental clearance. Further all such projects which have been operating without any environmental clearance would obtain environmental clearance at the time of their lease renewal". A copy of the said Notification is annexed to as **Annexure 'E'**.*

From the above, it is clear that VAL has not procured any Bauxite from Illegal and unregulated source and all conditions laid by MoEF while granting permission for procurement of bauxite (Indigenous / Import) have been complied. Further it may be noted that all the bauxite are being transported to plant only after obtaining necessary mineral permits and payment of royalty to the concerned department of the state government.

Without prejudice to the above submissions, we would like to take this opportunity to give a brief background on how this project was conceived and came about. Various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives undertaken as also the investments made. We would request that a holistic view of the matter ought to be taken so that the principle of sustainable development which is the basis of environmental jurisprudence/legislation is adhered to in letter and spirit.

Brief Background

With the discovery of East Coast Bauxite by GSI in late seventies, India became the fourth largest country having more than 3.0 Billion Tonnes of proven Bauxite reserves out of which Orissa is the largest depository of Bauxite having approximately 60% of total Bauxite reserves of the country and thus providing ample opportunities for investors and to make India as one of the best destination for Aluminium Industry.

Kalahandi is one of the most backward area in the country and national planners have recognized the need of industrialization in this backward area to bring poor tribal into main stream. With this background the State Government of Orissa has signed MOU for setting up Integrated Aluminium Complex in Orissa based on Lanjigarh Bauxite deposit and other nearby deposit.

Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives by VAL

Vedanta Aluminium Limited (VAL) have promoted various CSR initiatives in tune with the concept of sustainable development which has been held to be the basis of all environmental legislation.



Vedanta Aluminium Ltd. (VAL) is a law abiding company and has always complied with the conditions, guidelines or instructions issued from time to time by regulatory bodies like MOEF, SPCB etc. Besides compliance to regulatory norms in all operations, it is always ensured that all out efforts are made from the beginning in all our projects to ensure that no compromise is made in design, procurement and operation in achieving the basic objective of Environmental Protection Act which has been held by the courts to be Sustainable Development. As envisaged in Environment Protection Act 1986 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), development and protection of the environment are not inimical and utmost care has been taken to ensure that none of the operations should degrade the environment. All mitigation measures are taken to minimize the adverse effects, if any, by selecting environmental friendly technologies and systems. Reference in particular may be made to compliance status of point B(i) of the general Conditions of the Environmental clearance dated 22.09.2004 in respect of which the monitoring report of Dr. V.P. Upadhyay who was entrusted this task by the MOEF has itself interalia observed that "As per the monitoring report of the Orissa State Pollution Control Board, the emission and discharge parameters are within the prescribed limits." This compliance of one of the most fundamental conditions towards environment protection reflects the commitment of the company to environment Protection.

It is submitted that VAL has never failed in submission of compliance reports and has always shown a proactive approach in making the plant as one of the best plant in the world in terms of environmental management. It is only because of continuous efforts & suggestions made by SPCB from time to time that the concept of "Zero Discharge System" has been successfully implemented. The company has developed a detailed road map to achieve "Zero Waste Concept" and aims to become the first Alumina Refinery in the world to have such a system. The action plan in this direction is reflected in the report of Dr. V.P. Upadhyay, Director, MOEF.

The VAL sustainable development strategy, known as the "Vedanta Way" is all encompassing and comprises the main principles of Environmental Stewardship, Nurturing People, Health & Safety & Empowering Communities.

Sustainable development is a key part of VAL strategy and overall ethos. This is also the objective of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as well. The focus of the company has been on community engagement through CSR activities, so that overall socio economic development in the area can be ensured along with development of the industry. Kalahandi despite vast available mineral resources, was always known for its backwardness and deaths due to hunger, poverty, malnutrition, famine, drought, selling children for food, Malaria and Diarrhea etc. Reference in this regard may be made to the Parliamentary debates where as far back as on 28.11.1996 the need for industry in the area, in particular an alumina plant, was felt. The then M.P. of Kalahandi had stated "The Government of India & the Orissa Government should take keen interest to set up at least a large Alumina plant because we have got a heavy deposit of Bauxite in Niyamgiri and Sijimali of Kalahandi District. Several discussions have been held at the state and the central level. But there has not been any alumina plant, then a minimum of 40000 people can sustain out of the different kinds of earnings from that." Copy of the relevant extract of the parliamentary debate is annexed hereto and marked as Annexure 'F'.

In the Kalahandi Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) region, Kalahandi is the most backward area and in Kalahandi, the Lanjigarh Block is the least developed region. This area has always drawn the attention of our policy makers and it is mainly because of consistent efforts put in by national

planners that a project of this magnitude could be established in this region after more than six decades of independence. This lone project has made a major impact in eradicating the poverty and is providing opportunities to the poor & most deprived tribal to come into the mainstream.

Reference may once again be made to the Dr V.P. Upadhyay Report whose observations about the CSR initiatives of the company were "The CSR activity as reflected in the EMP for contributing to socio-economic development and as stipulated in this clearance (environmental Clearance point V) has been taken up by the project in true spirit. The project has made good beginning in this tribal dominated area, where the facilities are meagre. The project is covering the aspects of health and sanitation, education, sport and cultural activities, encouraging sustainable livelihood options like self help groups, pisciculture, tailoring, strawberry cultivation etc. It is reported that creation of infrastructure development and the above socio economic programs has benefited the people of the area. Some areas where CSR programs are being implemented by the industry for community welfare and development in Lanjigarh region including the programmes being implemented by Lanjigarh Project Area Development foundation (LPADF) were visited. Rupees 20 Crore has been deposited by the project in LPADF" The works undertaken by VAL in collaboration with the government and in partnership with the society in the areas of health, education, livelihood, promotion of local arts & culture and sports are given in the enclosed booklets of CSR activities in Lanjigarh & of Vedanta Group is reflected in the magazine "Samavesh". It is clear from the enclosure that Vedanta has invested more than Rs.100 crores on CSR activities alone in the area of Education, health, Livelihood, Communication and promotion of Sports, Arts and Culture in and around Lanjigarh alone to bring overall socio- economic development. In Kalahandi, a total investment of more than Rs.8000 Crores has already been made in the Lanjigarh Alumina Refinery project resulting in all round prosperity in the region.

Vedanta has strived to provide employment opportunities in all facets of the project to the local community. During the construction of the existing refinery more than ten thousand people had worked for a period of more than three years of which the majority were the local population. Besides, thousands of people worked at the plant site during the construction, the project has also generated substantial employment outside the State. Almost equal number of people have worked in various parts of the country to supply the materials for the plant besides creating indirect opportunity in the field of transportation, hotel business and other associated infrastructure facilities.

Presently nearly three thousand five hundred people are directly working at the plant site for operation and maintenance of the plant out of which nearly 70 percent of the people are local. Besides nearly eight thousand to ten thousand people are indirectly associated for keeping the plant running in business like bauxite handling and transportation alumina handling and transportation, coal, caustic soda, and furnace oil handling besides providing self employment opportunities to the local people. The Company has always fulfilled its commitment to provide job to each member of the displaced families by providing adequate industrial as well as behavioral training. Vedanta is the only mega industry in Kalahandi, which is providing employment opportunity not only to the people of Kalahandi but also to the entire state. Today, the Vedanta Group has become one of the largest employment provider in the State. A booklet containing the CSR initiatives stated by VAL are annexed hereto as Annexure 'G'.



The judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court reported in the case of Kishen Vs. State of Orissa AIR 1989 SC 677 would show the tragic situation of the people of Kalahandi where the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed investigation, by a Committee, regarding the starvation deaths in Kalahandi and Koraput. The present expansion will give employment to approximately 10,000 people in the plant, 70% of whom would be from the local population, and indirect employment to an equal number of people, who will mostly be from the local population. Thus, the expansion in question would change the face of economic development of this region.

Thus, the expansion proposed would lead to substantial employment, increase in CSR spending and contribution of Government Exchequer leading to further development of the area. As recorded in various decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is the duty of the State under our constitution to devise and implement a coherent and coordinated program to meet its obligation of sustainable development. Not allowing an established and successful industry to expand when there are no adverse affects of the same on the environment surely would be contrary to the principles of sustainable development. From the above you will agree that there was no unregulated expansion and all apprehensions mentioned in the show cause notice have already been addressed while planning for the expansion and the same was also ensured by the MOEF through the TOR.

Reference may also be made to the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *M.C. Mehta Case, (2004) 12 SCC 118*, wherein it was held as follows:

"The development and protection of environment are not enemies. If without degrading the environment and minimizing the adverse effects thereupon by applying stringent safeguards, it is possible to carry on development activity applying the principles of sustainable development, in that eventuality, the development has to go on because one cannot lose sight of the need for development of industries, irrigation resources and power projects, etc., including the need to improve employment opportunities and the generation of revenue..."

In the instant case, six monthly reports of the surrounding environmental conditions were submitted to the State Pollution Control Board with respect to the 1 million tonne refinery. These are also on the records of the MOEF. This data establishes that expansion will not have any adverse impact on the environment. A perusal of the reports would go to show that no negative impact on the environment was observed. It is requested that the expansion project be allowed to continue in the larger public interest.

In view of the above, the show cause notice issued may be recalled. Notwithstanding the above facts, the company is open to any further alterations / modifications as may be suggested by the

MOEF, which would be in the interest of Environment Protection. It is also requested that a personal hearing may be given before taking a final decision on a project of such magnitude which also have wide ranging benefits to the local community in one of the most backward and underdeveloped areas in India.

We shall be pleased to furnish additional clarifications, if any required on the above and also would like to present the same in person.

Thanking you,

Yours Faithfully,

For Vedanta Aluminium Ltd, Lanjigarh



(Dr. Mukesh Kumar)
Chief Operating Officer
Authorised Signatory

Encl: As Above