





**ಅಹವಾಲು**

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಗಣದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಕನಿವಾರ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಉಂಟಾಗಿರುವ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರಾದ ಗೋಪಿ ಪೂಜಾರಿ ಹೆಚ್.ಬಿ. ಒಳಿ ಅಹವಾಲು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡರು. -ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ



**ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ**

ದಲಿತ ನೌಕರರ ದೇಹಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಿ ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ದಲಿತ ನೌಕರರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಎ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿ -ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ: ತಜ್ಞರಿಂದ ನಿರಂತರ ನಾಲ್ಕೂವರೆ ಗಂಟೆ ಅಹವಾಲು ಸ್ವೀಕಾರ

# ಕಂಪೆನಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಿ: ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರ ಒತ್ತಾಯ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಉಡುಪಿ: 'ಹಿಂದೆ 150 ಕ್ಲಿಂಟರ್' ಧ್ವಂಸ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕೃಷಿಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ 50 ಕ್ಲಿಂಟರ್ ಧ್ವಂಸ ಕಡೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಶುದ್ಧ ನೀರು, ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯ...  
-ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿದ ಏಳು ಸದಸ್ಯರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ತಜ್ಞರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಅಹವಾಲು ಸ್ವೀಕಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಶನಿವಾರ ಬಿಗಿ ಬಂದೋಬಸ್ತನ್ನಡಿ ನಡೆಸಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರು ಅಳು ತೋಡಿ ಕೊಂಡರು. ಹೆಚ್.ಬಿ. ಒಳಿ ನಿರಂತರ ಮಾತು, ಅಭ್ಯವಾಹಿ, ಮುರಂಗಡಿ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರಿಂದ ಕೇಳಿ ದುಃಖ, ದುಮ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಭವಿಸಿದ ಅಕ್ಕಿರೂಪದ ಸುದ್ದಿಗಳು ಅವರದೇ ಮಾತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಿವೆ.



ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಶನಿವಾರ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಎದುರಾಗಿರುವ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಅಹವಾಲು ಸಭಿಸಲು ನಡೆಸಿ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರು. -ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

ತಜ್ಞರು ಅಹವಾಲು ಆರಿಸಿದರು. ನೂರಾರು ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರು ಪದವಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿಂದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಭಾಂಗಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರು. ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30ಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾದ ಸಭೆ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯಿತು. 56 ಮಂದಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನಿವೇದಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಉಳಿದವರು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಭೆ ಸಭಿಸಿದರು. ಸ್ವಯಂ ಚಿ.ಪಂ. ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ತಾ.ಪಂ.ಸದಸ್ಯ, ಮಿತ್ರ ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂ.ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಸಂಸೂಚನಾ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪರಿಷತ್, ಫಲಾಕಾರಿರೂಪದ ಅಹವಾಲು ಸಭಿಸಿ ದಾಯಿತು.

ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬಾಹಿರವಾಗಿರುವುದು ತಮ್ಮ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರು ಎಂದೂ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಬಂದಿಬಿರು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಆಗ ಗದ್ದಲದ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಉಂಟಾಗಿ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಸಭಾಂಗಣದೊಳಗೆ ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಚೇರಿ ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ಕೊಡಲಾಯಿತು. ತೊಂದರೆಯಾದವರು ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಅಹವಾಲು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಜ್ಞರು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ತಜ್ಞರಾಯಿತು.

ಕಂಪೆನಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾಧ್ಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದವೆ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಮುಂದೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಅಹವಾಲು ನಿವೇದಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡವರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯಿಂದ ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೃಷಿಭೂಮಿ, ಜನಜನಾನುಭವಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ದುಷ್ಪರಿಣಾಮ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೂರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಇವೆಲ್ಲವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ದೊಂದೇ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಎಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದರು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ನಮ್ಮ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಬದಲು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಆಗಮಿಸಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಣ್ಣಾರೆ ಕಾಣುವಂತೆ ತಜ್ಞರಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು.

## ‘ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್‌ನಿಂದ 8 ಗ್ರಾಮ ನಿರ್ನಾಮ’

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

**‘ಕಂಪೆನಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಿ’**  
‘ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲ 8 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ನಾಮ ಮಾಡಲು ಹೋರಾಟ ವಿಧ್ಯುಕ್ತ ಘಟಕ ಯಾರ ಒತ್ತಾಸೆಗೆ ಮೂರು ಬೆಳಿ ತೆಗೆಯುವ ಗದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ ಒಂದು ಬೆಳಿ ತೆಗೆಯುವುದೇ ಕಷ್ಟ. ಉಪ್ಪು ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ, ಕುಡಿಯಲು ನೀರಿನ, ವಾತಾವರಣ ಕಲುಷಿತ, ಕೂಡಲೇ ಈ ಕಂಪೆನಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಬೇಕು.’  
-ದಿನೇಶ್ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ, ಉಳೂರು

**‘ರೋಗ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ’**  
‘20 ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಪದವಿಬಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯನಾಗಬೇಕೆ. ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾದಾಗಿನಿಂದ ಈ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸ್ತಮಾ, ಟಿಬರ್‌ರೋಗ, ಅಲರ್ಜಿಗಳಿಂದ ಬಳಲುವ ರೋಗಿಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಬರುವುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆಲ್ಲ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಲುಷಿತ ವಾತಾವರಣವೇ ಕಾರಣ’  
-ಡಾ.ವಿ.ಎಸ್.ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಪಡವಿಬಿಡಿಯ

**‘ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಆದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಜಿಕೆ’**  
‘ಮೂಲೈ-ಕಟಪಾಡಿ ಭಾಗದ ಕಡಲಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ರೂ.8-10 ಲಕ್ಷ ಆದಾಯ ಬರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಕಲುಷಿತ ನೀರು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಮೇಲೆ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿ ಮಾರಣಹೋಮ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಇಲ್ಲವೆ ಆಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯವೇ ಕಾರಣ. ಮಿಷಾರಿಟರ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷಿನಿಂದ ಮಂಗಳವೇ ವರ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ’  
-ಐನಾಜ್ ತಿಂಗಳಾಯಿ, ನಾಡಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಮೀನುಗಾರರ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

**‘ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೆ 4 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ’**  
‘ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕೃಷಿಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 60ರಷ್ಟು ಇಳುವರಿ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಶೇ 40ರಷ್ಟು ಧಾನ್ಯ ಫಲಿತ ಕಡಿಮೆ. ಹೋಗಿರುವ ಬಂದವರಿಗೆ ಉಪ್ಪು ಬಡುಕಲು ಲಾಕೆ ಎರೆ ಕೂಡ ಸಿರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ನಾಲ್ಕು ತಿಂಗಳೇ ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿವಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ’  
-ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಣ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ, ಸಂಸೂಚನಾ.

**‘ಸುಬ್ಬಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗುಡಿಗೆ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ’**  
‘ಶಾಬ್ದೇಚಿಟ್ಟು ಸುಬ್ಬಹಳ್ಳಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ 9ನೇ ಶತಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ್ದು. ನಮ್ಮಪ್ಪರಿಗೂ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಬಂದಾಗ ಈ ದೇವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ಆದರೆ ಈಗ ಈ ಸುಬ್ಬಹಳ್ಳಿ ದೇವರ ಗುಡಿಗೆ ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ನಾವು ಈಗ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೇಳಿಗಬೇಕಿದೆ. ದೇವರ ಪೂಜೆಗೆ ಹೂವು, ಒಂದು ತುಳಸಿ ದಳ ಕೂಡ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.’  
-ಜಯಚಿಟ್ಟು ಕಾಡೇಚಿಟ್ಟು

**‘ಮನೆ ನಿರ್ನಾಮ ಮಾಡಿದರು’**  
‘ನನಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ಮಳೆಗಾಲದ ಮುಂಜಾನೆ ಬೆಳಿಬಿ ತಂದು ಸುಮಾರು 2000 ಪೊಲೀಸರನ್ನು ನಿರೋಧಿಸಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಮನೆ ನಿರ್ನಾಮ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ಹೊರ ಹಾಕಿದರು. ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ಎಕರೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಈಗ ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಪಾಲಾಗಿದೆ’  
-ಗೋಪಿ ಪೂಜಾರಿ, ಎಲ್ಲೂರು.

**‘ಹೋರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಮ್ಮೆತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ’**  
‘ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಎಂಟು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ನಿರ್ನಾಮವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ 20 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಹೋರಾಡಿದರೂ ಏನೂ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪೇಟಾವರತ್ತಿಗಳು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಯತಿಗಳು. ಆದರೆ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಬಂದಂತೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸಹವಾಸ ನಮ್ಮ ಮಾತು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಿಕೆ ಇಲ್ಲ, ತೆಂಗು ಇಲ್ಲ’  
-ಸಂಜೀವಿ ರಾವ್, ಸಂಸೂಚನಾ

**‘ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥರಿಗೆ ಏನೆಂದು ಉತ್ತರಿಸಲಿ’**  
‘ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥಗಳನ್ನೇ ಮಾಡಲು ಜನರು ಬಿಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರಣ-ಯುಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ, ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹರಿಕಳು ನಾವು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದರೆ, ನಿರ್ಣಯ ಕೈಗೊಂಡರೆ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಉತ್ತರವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ನಾವು ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥರಿಗೆ ಏನಂತ ಉತ್ತರ ಕೊಡುವುದು. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯದೇ ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥರ ಮಾತುಬಿಡದವರೂ ಹೇಗೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆ ಕೂಡ ನಾವು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ’  
-ಸುರೇಶ್ ರಾವ್, ಎಲ್ಲೂರು ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂ.ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

**‘ಆತ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕಿಯೇ ದಾರಿ’**  
‘ಹಿಂದೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 150 ಕ್ಲಿಂಟರ್ ಧ್ವಂಸ ಬೆಳೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ 50 ಕ್ಲಿಂಟರ್ ಇರಲಿದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಆದರೆ ನಾವು ಬದುಕುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ ಆತ್ಮಹಕ್ಕಿಯೇ ದಾರಿ’  
-ಓಮಯ್ಯ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ, ಸಂಸೂಚನಾ.

# Complaints pour in at PCL meet

'Expert panel recommendations to be submitted within 45 days'

**UDUPI:** Karnataka Bio-fuel Development Board (KBDB) (Bangalore) Chairman Y B Ramakrishna said that recommendations of the expert committee on coal based UPCL thermal power plant will be submitted to the government in four phases.

Speaking at the expert committee meeting on coal based Udupi Power Corporation Limited held here at Deputy Commissioner's office on Saturday, Ramakrishna informed that the overall report of the committee on UPCL power project will be submitted to the government within one-and-half month. He said the foremost phase will comprise of the attempts to bridge the gap between district administration and local people in the power plant area. Besides, instructions will be given to the district administration over the measures to be adopted in this direction. The second phase will focus on the lapses by the Company and the measures to be taken to rectify the lapses. The third phase recommendations will include an attempt at focusing over the lapses on the part of power plant as a whole, especially the failures on the part of monitoring the plant. These failures will be brought to the notice of the government. Finally, it is the responsibility of the State government and Central gov-



An aged woman airing her grievance at the expert committee meet on UPCL on Saturday.

ernment to take action. There are many issues to be taken care by both the governments. The issues like environment, public hearing, technical issues, impact assessment, amendments in the environment policies come under the jurisdiction of the Central government, he added. Ramakrishna informed that the committee received 55 written applications from the victims. The expert committee will analyse each application in depth and take decision over the matter. The team will also visit the UPCL site.

**Threat to water body**  
Balakrishna Shetty, the executive president of Nandikur Janajagruti Samiti said the plant can not function at the present location. The project is serious threat to water body of

the region besides affecting the health of the villagers. The geographical features, the soil conditions, the meteorological conditions, hydrological conditions and heavy precipitation make the area unsuitable for the project, he added.

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) Udupi district President Vijay Kumar Hegde alleged that public hearing is not done prior to the setting up of the plant. Besides, the Joint Measurement Committee is not constituted. Though human right violation takes place in the plant area, no official has visited the site so far. The power plant was set up without obtaining license from the Panchayat. The substandard and cheaper technology is used in the plant to generate the power, he said. Briefing over the problems

encountered by the villagers, KRRS Padabettu Secretary Dinesh Shetty said: "We don't need development at the cost of our lives and by destroying the precious environment. As many as 8 villages are massively affected by the plant. The public in the area are breathing poisonous air and are drinking contaminated water. The yield of paddy cultivation has drastically come down."

Dr Y N Shetty who owns private hospital in Padubidri said he receives many number of patients from Nandikur and Yelluru area complaining over the respiratory problems and skin diseases. Diseases like allergy bronchitis, allergy dermatitis and bronchitis asthama are common among the residents of the area, he informed. Ramakant Devadiga from

Padabettu said that the high tension wire is oxidized due to the salt vapor emerging out of the chimneys of UPCL.

A localite, Gopi Poojary, alleged that her land with good yield was crushed down overnight by the company officials without giving any prior intimation. The case of land acquisition was pending before the court when the company officials destroyed her farm land.

KRRS District Vice-President Prakash Shetty said the contaminated salty water released to the sea has affected marine lives.

Yelluru Gram Panchayat Member Jayanth Bhat alleged that pollution control board officials have been bribed by the Company.

The expert committee team comprised of six members besides Karnataka Bio-fuel Development Board (KBDB) (Bangalore) Chairman Y B Ramakrishna, J V Ramachandra, scientist from Bharatiya Vijnana Kendra, Karnataka Environment Pollution Control Board, Senior Officer C D Kumar, Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) Chemical Engineering Department Professor Jaydev Bhat, MIT Civil Engineering Department Professor T Ganesh, NITK Civil Department Professor Dr Subhash and Regional Environment Pollution Control Board Director T Balachandra. **DH News Service**

# UPCL: people narrate their woes

Seven-member committee holds hearing in Udupi

Staff Correspondent

**UDUPI:** As many as 56 people from villages surrounding the thermal plant of Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) narrated their tales of suffering because of pollution caused by the plant, before the committee of experts here on Saturday.

The seven-member committee is headed by Y.B. Ramakrishna, who is also the Chairman of Karnataka Bio-fuel Development Board. Pain, agony, and anger marked their narration of problems. The meeting, which began at 10.30 a.m. at the Deputy Commissioner's office complex, concluded at 2.45 p.m. The meeting was interrupted twice by remarks made by two persons which irked those affected by the plant.

Executive president of Nandikur Janajagruti Samiti Balakrishna Shetty told the committee that the plant should not be allowed to function from its present location with its severe environmental ramifications. Nearly 390 acres of the village forest had been razed for the sake of the plant. Another four lakh trees would have to be felled for laying transmission lines in the Western



Executive president of Nandikur Janajagruti Samiti Balakrishna Shetty (left) speaking at a meeting on issues relating to the thermal plant of UPCL in Udupi on Saturday.

Ghats, which was unsustainable. The geographical features, soil, meteorological and hydrological conditions, and heavy precipitation made the area unsuitable for the plant. The plant was a serious threat to water security of the region. The financial and economical costs were not commensurate with the benefits from the plant, Mr. Shetty said.

President of the district unit of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) Vijay Kumar Hegde said that saline water from the plant flowed into the fields of farmers and destroyed their crops.

Y.N. Shetty, a physician from Padubidri, said that there was a rise in the number of cases of allergic bronchitis, allergic dermatitis, and asthma in villages such as Nandi-

kur, Santhar, Yellur, and Padubidri.

Poojappa Poojary, farmer from Padabettu village, said that his one acre field used to provide him 50 "murras" of paddy a year ago. But after the thermal plant started operating, he was getting less than 15 "murras" of paddy (One "murr" is roughly 40 kg).

When Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda was Udu-

pi-Chikmagalur MP, he visited the area and promised to stop pollution from the thermal plant. But after he became Chief Minister, he did not bother to visit the village, Mr. Poojary said.

Gopi Poojary from Yelluru said that though her case with regard to her land was being heard in the court, the authorities demolished her house and acquired her agricultural field. "Why should we have this project when it is causing distress to so many people," she said.

Christine Quadros from Yelluru said that her arecanut plantation and jasmine plants had been destroyed owing to pollution from the thermal plant. "But the government wants electricity and money and not the people," she said.

President of the Country Boat Fishermen's Association Janardhan Thingalaya said that the discharge of effluents into the sea by UPCL had affected fish production, and consequently, the livelihood of fishermen.

President of Yelluru Gram Panchayat Suman S. said that the panchayat could not hold "gram sabhas" (village meetings) as people wanted their problems regarding the thermal plant to be solved before any such meeting

# Panel to submit report on UPCL plant soon

Staff Correspondent

**UDUPI:** Y.B. Ramakrishna, Chairman of the seven-member committee of experts to look into the problems of people in villages surrounding the thermal plant of Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL), said on Saturday that the committee would submit its report to the State government in one-and-a-half months.

Mr. Ramakrishna told presspersons that the committee would submit four-stage recommendations to the government. Its first recommendation would be that the gap between the people and the district administration should be reduced.

There should be coordination in dealing with problems of the affected persons. All matters should be resolved through discussions.

The second recommendation would focus on the lapses on the part of UPCL. The committee had submitted an interim report on the lapses of UPCL.

The company had submitted an action taken report. Yet, there were some lapses. The committee would ask UPCL to set right the lapses.

The third recommendation would deal with lapses in procedures and monitoring UPCL after the company started functioning, especially with the regard to pollution. Here, the committee would focus on the steps which the State government would have to take.

**Pollution control**

The fourth recommendation would focus on pollution control. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be done properly. Without conducting public hearing and approving projects despite protests created problems.

The report would recommend steps needed to be taken by the Union and State governments in this regard.

The committee would also visit a couple of villages to study pollution, Mr. Ramakrishna said.

MANGALORE		
November	Rise	Set
Sun (20)	05:51	16:51
Mon (21)	05:51	16:51
Tue (22)	05:52	16:51
Wed (23)	05:53	16:50
Thu (24)	05:54	16:49
Fri (25)	05:55	16:48
Sat (26)	05:56	16:47







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Published: May 3, 2012 09:30 IST | Updated: May 3, 2012 09:30 IST

**Report highlights 'adverse effects' of UPCL plant**

Staff Correspondent

A Technical Report on the problems caused by pollution allegedly from the coal-based 1,200 MW thermal power plant of Udupi Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL) at Yellur and its surrounding villages by two experts T.V. Ramachandra and Y.B. Ramakrishna was released by Visvesha Tirtha Swami of Pejawar Math at a press conference here on Wednesday.

While Dr. Ramachandra is from the Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre of Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Mr. Ramakrishna is the Executive Chairman, Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board. Visvesha Tirtha Swami had asked these two experts in January this year to submit an independent report after they were dropped from the government-appointed expert committee to look into the pollution caused allegedly by UPCL.

This technical report is based on detailed field investigation (water, soil, biotic elements) and interaction with the local people. A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, conducted a detailed scientific assessment of the environmental conditions of the region from August to November 2011, which is deliberated in the report. The other members of the team were Gautham Krishnadas, Sudarshan P. Bhat, Durga Madhab Mahapatra and Bharath H. Aithal from IISc, Bangalore.

In its executive summary, the report gives a graphic picture of problems caused by pollution from the thermal power plant in Yellur (including Kolachur), Nandikur, Nadsal (including Tenka Yermal), Bada, Padebettu, Santhur, Palimar, Karnire and Hejmady villages.

The report states that there was contamination of water (surface and ground), soil and air apart from the impaired functional aspects of biotic elements. This was evident from reduced productivity (grains, jasmine flowers, coconut, arecanut and livestock – milk), reproductive ability (livestock, poultry animals).

Deposition of dust with toxicants in floral parts of the vegetation had reduced phyto-toxicity leading to poor pollination and hence reduced productivity. Reduced population of pollinators (bees) had been reported in these villages due to degradation of environment.

Field investigation had revealed stunted growth of saplings (evident in the power plant's green belt), drying up of leaves, corrosion of metals and resultant damage to tin roofs, dish antennas, transmission lines, railway tracks, fencing of the power plant boundary, enhanced respiratory diseases, non-palatable grass (livestock refrain from feeding on grass). This was due to deposition of supersaturated saline mist on soil and foliage.

Along with field observations with causal factors, the report gives mitigation measures.

Keywords: [thermal power plant](#)

Mangalorean May 3, 2012

## Udupi: Damage Caused by UPCL Should Not be Paid by Gov't: Pejawar Swamiji

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Published Date: 03 May, 2012 (8:41 AM)

Report and pics by Michael Rodrigues  
Team Mangalorean Udupi

**Udupi:** Shri Vishweshwara Tirtha Swamiji of Pejawar had named a team of scientists for study of damage caused by the coal-fired thermal power plant of Udupi Power Corporation and they have submitted report. The Swamiji has handed over the report to chief minister Sadananda Gowda and directed him to pass the order as in the report.

The Swamiji released the report at a media meet in the Math on Wednesday and said that this report had given him enormous strength to his fight against the UPCL.



Under the guidance of chairman of Bio-Fuel Task Force Y B Ramakrishna, the Swamiji had appointed a team of 6 scientists and they have studied all the reports with precision and technical support. The report says that there is severe damage to surrounding villages' environment. He has also urged the UPCL to follow the rules without any conditions and also threatened to protest with the public.

Until now the affected public and environmentalists had opposed this but the UPCL had rejected it for reason that it was unscientific. Now that this report has been submitted by the experts, the Swamiji has exerted pressure on the state government and the UPCL.

The report details the financial, social and health-related problems, hence the UPCL must take responsibility of cleaning up the pollution, compensating the affected etc. The government need not pay all this amount from the tax-payers' money. Only the UPCL must be made to pay it, he said.

When the UPCL started functioning with the support of the BJP government in spite of opposition, the Swamiji began opposing it. To pacify the Swamiji, the late Dr V S Acharya recommended a team of 6 scientists, four of them from the government and two of Swamiji's choice. Annoyed over this, the Swamiji requested the two scientists of his choice to prepare a report separately.



# The Dakshin Times

## UPCL affected lives of people, says Report

May 4, 2012



**Udupi: Water has been contaminated, the yielding capacity of crops has gone down, and reproduction of livestock too has been affected.**

These are some of the points mentioned in the findings of the expert committee that inspected the areas affected by Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL).

The report states that the lives of people living in villages like Yellur, Nandikur, Nadsalu, Thenka Yermalu, Bada Padebettu, Santhoor, Palimar, Karnire and Hejamady has been grossly affected. Along with air pollution, even the fertility of soil has gone down, thereby leading to depletion in crop yield.

The report also states about a startling fact that most of the animals domesticated in the area are not being able to reproduce.

“The growth of plants around the region is not like before. The dust settlements on the leaves of the plants are burning down the leaves. There is sudden dwarfening of plants. People are facing breathing problems due to the air pollution. The salt emanating from cooling tower of the unit has been depositing on the fodder, making it unfit for consumption by the cattle,” the report reads.

The report says that the iron content in water available around two kms radius of the unit has increased drastically. The water in the region does not meet the UNO prescribed standards.

The coal waste is released to water bodies in Yellur, Padebettu, Thenka and south Kolachur, which has massively polluted the water bodies. The report speaks of the unscientific management of flying ash. It is said that the water from the ash pit is released into River Shambhavi due to which the underground water at Santhoor village is getting affected.

“The salt mixed water is getting leaked due to which the fertility of the soil is at stake. This is having direct impact on the yield,” the report says and adds that the number of birds in the region too has decreased.

The report recommends steps to stop pollution in the region, restore the natural surroundings, all works related to pollution control and conservation of nature should be taken up by the management and Government should not fund these projects and the unit should abide by all rules and norms applicable to them.

Dr T V Ramachandra, Y B Ramakrishna, Gautham Krishnadas, Sudarshan P Bhat, Durga Madab Mahapatra and Bharath Aithal were the members of the team.

## Pejawar seer submits report on Udupi Power Corporation Limited to govt

TNN May 4, 2012, 05:53AM IST

**Tags:** Sri Vishweshwara Theertha Swami | Pejawar seer | Karnataka State Biofuel | chief minister DV Sadananda Gowda

MANGALORE: Pejawar seer Sri Vishweshwara Theertha Swami has submitted a report prepared by the parallel expert committee, formed to study environmental impacts of the thermal power plant of Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL), to chief minister DV Sadananda Gowda.

Earlier, the parallel expert committee consisting YB Ramakrishna, executive chairman of Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board and TV Ramachandra of Energy and Wetlands Research Group had submitted the report on the pollution caused by the plant to the seer.

The panel observed in the report that the open type box transportation method used by the unit is causing spillage of coal and coal dust in the vicinity. "Railway tracks, fencing of the green belt of the plant, tin sheets, transmission lines, iron pillar and silver-plated door frame and door of the main entrance of Subramanya temple in Padabetu and Durgaparameshwari temple in Nandikur, all located within two km of the plant, were found corroded. Higher salinity was observed in water samples collected from wells within the two km radius of the plant. It was also observed that water in nearby wells and streams had saltiness, difference in colour and oily layers. People in the zone had skin rashes, lesions, nail deformation (onychodystrophy) and skin itching due to water contamination. A change was observed in the groundwater table also," the report stated.

Respiratory ailments like asthma, alveolar infections, and bronchitis were reported from the area. Eye irritation and skin diseases were found in the south-eastern side closer to silos, where fly ash is stored, added the report.

It further said that livestock in the region too had skin and respiratory ailments, miscarriages and other health problems including decline in milk yield. The report pointed out that there was a reduction in paddy yield in the core zone by 57 to 66 per cent. Premature falling and reduced yield of areca, coconut and banana, and reduction in the population of peafowl, foxes and wild boar are other major concerns.

# 'Udupi thermal plant has impacted health, livelihood of village residents'

Divya Gandhi

**BANGALORE:** Air and water pollution from the contentious 600 MW thermal power plant in Udupi's Yellur village has not only corroded infrastructure and caused leaf burn in crops, it has also had a devastating impact on human health, finds a report of an expert team.

The report was submitted earlier this week to the State government.

A range of contaminants, including heavy metals from fly ash dumps, saline mist emissions from cooling towers and coal mix effluents have led to respiratory, skin and digestive disorders in residents around a six-km radius around the power plant, says the report.

Asthma, alveolar infection, bronchitis, skin rashes, lesions, eye infections and ony-

- Study finds presence of heavy metals in water and soil in a six-km radius around the plant

- This led to respiratory, skin and digestive disorders in residents

chodystrophy (nail deformation) were among the commonly recorded ailments by the team that included T.V. Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Water samples collected within a two-km radius 'core zone' around the plant and soil samples from buffer regions (six-km radius) were found to have heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, cobalt, nickel, copper, chromium and manganese.

"The irresponsible act of releasing untreated effluents (rich in salinity, heavy metals,

hydrocarbons) is primarily responsible for contamination of water (ground and surface waters) and land resources," says the report.

In three villages within the core zone well water had turned saline, red and oily. Salt and soot depositions cloaked plants, clothes and household items. Farmers said that paddy yield had declined by 57 to 66 per cent, besides reporting leaf burn in crops that included coconut, banana and jasmine. Likewise livestock owners reported that there was a decline in milk yield.

Fly-ash, a toxic byproduct

of coal combustion has been mismanaged, the report says: "The inadequate or absence of impervious layer in the ash pond has led to seepage of contaminated water to the surrounding water sources... Ash pond effluents were discharged to a nearby perennial stream (which is being used for domestic activities by the residents of Santhur village)."

The report also refers to the unhygienic conditions in the workers' colony including unsafe drinking water, unhygienic toilet facilities and inadequate sewage treatment. A high incidence of malaria and chikungunya were reported among the residents of the colony. The study area included ten villages around the thermal power plant - Yellur, Padebetu, Nadsal, Nandikur, Santhur, Karnire, Bada, Palimar, Padebetu and Hejamadi in Udupi taluk.

**Today's Paper » NATIONAL » KARNATAKA**

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**UPCL issues may be resolved in two weeks**

Staff Correspondent

The State Government will give priority to resolve issues that were delaying in commissioning the second unit of the Udupi Power Corporation's coal-based power plant. The Cabinet will be taking up the matter shortly and resolve the issues in the next two weeks, said Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda.

Mr. Gowda told presspersons here on Sunday that there had been several reasons for the delay. There was delay on the part of the company at the time of construction of power plants because of failure of Chinese engineers to attend the work following earthquake in China. There had been delay because of the change in the stand of Indonesia over supply of coal, he said.

On the other hand, getting clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest was delayed for the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation's work of setting up the 400 kV transmission line for evacuating power from the project. "There are other problems too. There is also environment problem," he said.

Mr. Gowda said the State Government had taken a serious view of the project. In the coming Cabinet meeting, discussions would be held about memorandum of understanding to be signed by the UPCL, the Government, and the Electricity Supply Companies.

"We will take steps to resolve all issues in the next two weeks," he said.

The 1200 MW coal-based power plant of the UPCL was located in the Nanidkur village near Udupi. While the first unit of the plant of 600 MW capacity started commercial operations in November 2010, the second unit, also with a capacity of 600 MW, was yet to begin its operations.

A few days ago, T.V. Ramachandra from Energy and Wetlands Research Group of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and Y.B. Ramakrishna, Executive Chairman of Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board, submitted to Vishweshwara Tirtha Swami of Pejavar Mathi, a detailed report about the problems caused because of UPCL. The swamiji demanded the State Government take steps to stop pollution or shut down the plant's operation.

- ***There are problems relating to workers, coal supply***
- ***Escoms may be asked to sign power purchase pact***

# DECCAN Chronicle

## Pejawar seer serves ultimatum on UPCL

May 28, 2012

By **Amit S. Upadhye** DC



The expert committee appointed to assess the environmental impact on villagers living around the thermal power plant of Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL), in Yellur village in Udupi district has given the thumbs down for the company to operate.

The committee had submitted the report to the Pejawar seer, Sri Vishwesa Theertha Swami. Based on the report, the seer told the government that the company should either decontaminate the region or shut its doors.

The final report made available to *Deccan Chronicle* lists a series of irregularities and environmental degradations caused by the power plant, which is damaging people's health and livestock.

There are serious lapses in the way in which the company is running the power plant, the report says.

Streams in the vicinity of the power plant have been contaminated with coal mixed effluents, resulting in the increase of ionic concentrations of surface water in nearby water bodies.

This has resulted in declining crop yield and has affected the health of the human and cattle populations in the vicinity (see box).

High levels of salinity, fly ash dust and vaporised heavy metals have been found in the soil. The dust deposited on the flowering parts of crops reduces the population of pollinators such as bees, and this reduced pollination has contributed to the decline in crop yield.

The report is based on a study conducted in Yellur (including Kolachur) and surrounding villages of Nandikur, Nadsal (including Tenka Yermal), Bada, Padebetu, Santhur, Palimar, Karnire and Hejamadi, subsequent to the commissioning of the coal-based thermal power station.

"Since 2010 the region has been experiencing large scale environmental contamination (land, water, air and biotic elements) affecting the livelihood of the local people. The company has thrown all environmental norms to the winds and caused heavy contamination and environmental degradation in the region," said Dr T. V. Ramachandra of the Indian Institute of Science, who on the committee.

Dr M. K. Ramakrishna, chairman of Bio Diesel Task Force is on the six-member expert committee constituted by the government to assess the impact the thermal power plant.

Differences in the committee led to the dropping of two of the members, but they continued with the report and submitted it to the Pejawar seer recently.