VEDANTA’S RESPONSE TO NEWS APPEARING IN LONDON MEDIA


Vedanta believes in continuous dialoguing with all the stakeholders and always endeavors to address the issues raised by any of them. In the past, Amnesty International released two reports titled “Don’t Mine us out of Existence: Bauxite Mine and Refinery devastate lives in India” and “Generalizations, Omissions, Assumptions: The failing of Vedanta’s Environmental Impact Assessment for its Bauxite Mine and Alumina Refinery in India, State of Odisha”. As most of the allegations made in their reports were lacking substantiation, we thought it appropriate to bring out a detailed report incorporating all the performance, Human Rights and Environmental data for the benefit of the larger section of our Stakeholders. The report titled, “The Lanjigarh Development Story: Vedanta’s Perspective” is available on our official website (www.Vedantaresources.com/sustainability) and also on the Vedanta Aluminium micro-site (www.vedantaaluminium.com).

Although we have already clarified all the issues appearing in their previous reports, Amnesty International has again raised the same issues in their above titled report highlighting some Human Rights violations with reference to mainly Bauxite Mine and some law and order related issues. Vedanta refuted all such allegations as baseless and responded to the shareholders accordingly. During AGM, some of the shareholders also raised objections on flaring of such irrelevant issues without any rationale and insisted for conducting the AGM adhering to the agenda so that their main concerns could be duly addressed. Vedanta has clarified that being a responsible and law abiding Corporate, it shall under no circumstances contravene the law of the land. Since, Amnesty is raising certain issues like Indigenous peoples and their rights which the Constitution of India does not recognize we are refrained from responding to such issues. However, Vedanta shall ensure that all relevant Acts and Laws applicable to the Tribal Communities living around its Lanjigarh Project are fully complied without fail. Similarly, as the Bauxite Mine belongs to the Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL), where no activity has been started till date and the matter is sub-judiced in the highest Court of the Country (Supreme Court of India), Vedanta has no authority to answer any question arising out of the matter.


The Coverage given in Guardian was mainly based on the Amnesty Report “Vedanta’s Perspective uncovered” without taking any reference to the report released by Vedanta which was made available on the official website (www.Vedantaresources.com/sustainability) and also on the Vedanta Aluminium micro-site (www.vedantaaluminium.com) before the AGM. Before reporting also, no official response was sought from Vedanta. However, as clarified by us in the AGM also, the Lanjigarh unit is suffering from acute shortage of raw material mainly Bauxite and Plant Operations may require to be suspended temporarily. On one hand organizations like Amnesty International
are organizing demonstration against the Project in London, in the home turf Lanjigarh; the members of the local communities in thousands are agitating in support of the Project demanding immediate supply of Bauxite from local sources. The agitation is continuing in the region for the last several days as the dream of the locals which have been materialized after six decades of Independence is on the verge of being shattered. Vedanta respects the sentiments of the local people and shall endeavor to continue its sustainable development approach for the local community by undertaking Projects in the areas of Education, Health, Sports & Culture, infrastructure development and creating livelihood opportunities.


Vedanta believes in freedom of speech and hence takes all such demonstrations in a positive spirit. We know that most of the people who were participating in such demonstrations might not have visited Lanjigarh or any other Vedanta Project sites even once and may not be aware about the lifestyle and living conditions of the people inhabiting such regions. We are of the strong belief that once such people would see the physical conditions and infrastructure facilities available in such regions, they will definitely change their opinion and mindset in the larger interest of the underprivileged recognizing the need for development. Vedanta is committed for the overall development of the area and shall continue the same following its sustainable framework of Responsible Stewardship, Strong Relationship and Adding Value.