

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF M/S. SHREE SHREE SADGURU SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD., AT SURVEY NO. 234, RAJEWADI, TAL: ATPADI, DIST: SANGLI, FOR PROPOSED DISTILLERY OF 50 KLPD AND EXPANSION OF SUGARCANE CRUSHING FROM 2500 TCD TO 5000 TCD, AND CO-GENERATION FROM 12 MW TO 22 MW.**

A public hearing for proposed distillery of 50 KLPD, expansion of sugarcane crushing from 2500 to 5000 TCD and co-generation from 12 MW to 22 MW in respect of M/s. Shree Shree Saduguru Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. was held on 28-07-2017 at 3.00 P.M. at the factory site of M/s. Shree Shree Saduguru Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. at Survey No. 234, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.

Following panel members were present for the public hearing:-

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|----|---|---|----------|
| 1. | Hon'ble Shri. Trigun Kulkarni,<br>Additional District Magistrate, Sangli.<br>(Representative of District Collector, Sangli)     | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri. Dilip Khedkar,<br>Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.<br>(Representative of Maharashtra Pollution<br>Control Board) | - | Member   |
| 2. | Shri L. S. Bhad,<br>Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board,<br>Sangli.   | - | Convener |

First of all, the convener of the environmental public hearing welcomed the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman started the public hearing. He said that the project proponent has submitted proposal to M.P.C. Board in respect of the proposed project for which public hearing is held. For this purpose a committee has been formed. The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the people about the impact of the proposed project on the environment and people, the measures undertaken by the project proponent to control pollution and discuss with them their problems. He




Further informed that environmental public hearing is mandatory for the projects mentioned in Schedule 'A' and 'B' of Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated September 2006 of MOEF, Government of India. As per this Notification, a public notice was published on 27-06-2017 in daily news papers i.e. 'Sakal' in Marathi language and 'The Times of India' in English language. The copies of EIA report were made available for study of public at the offices of Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; District Collector, Sangli; District Industries Center, Sangli; Zilla Parishad Office, Sangli; MOEF, Kolhapur (MP); Head Office of M.P.C. Board, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur; Sub Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, Sangli, Tahsil Office, Rajewadi and Gram Panchayat, Rajewadi, Dist: Sangli and called any suggestions, complaints etc. from the public.

He informed Environmental Clearance of MOEF is necessary for the proposed project and this public hearing is held as a part of the requirement. He requested public to watch the slide show presentation of the technical consultant and then public can raise questions, objections, instructions etc. during the public hearing orally or in writing which will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes will be submitted to MOEF for further necessary action. Thereafter, he requested the project proponent to give detailed presentation regarding proposed project.

Thereafter, Shri. Chavan, Technical Consultant of the proposed project presented information with the help of slide show. It includes background of the factory and management, products and by-products, capital expenditure, geographical location of the project, its altitude and longitude, toposheet location, distance from nearest city, road, rail, airport, river, sanctuary; river, lakes within 10 km radius, nearby villages, compost yard, green belt area, distribution of factory land, process in distillery, process of sugar factory, availability of raw materials, availability and necessary of water for distillery, yield of sugar, distillery and co-gen. plants, planning and treatment waste water of distillery, boiler capacity, provision of chimney, ESP, use of land, tree plantation, bio-fertilizer, boiler ash, manpower, study and management of



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environment, greenbelt development, measures taken for pollution control, water management, hazardous waste management, measures take to control noise pollution, odour management, total cost of environment management, cost of CSR, use of by-products of sugar factory, reuse of water, social and economic benefits of the proposed project, employment opportunities etc.

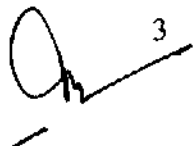
After above presentation, Shri Dilip Khedkar, Member explained the purpose of the public hearing. He informed that suggestions complaints of the public in respect of the proposed project will be recorded by the public hearing committee and will be sent to MOEF for further decision. This public hearing committee has no right to take decision of granting or rejecting permission to the proposed project. He requested people to ask questions, suggestions from environmental point of view only.

Thereafter, following discussion / questions-answers took place.

**Q.1. Shri Rahul Madhukar Pujari, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

We are residents of village Rajewadi but we do not know that there is a public hearing today. There are only 5% farmers among the people present here for this public hearing remaining are employees of the factory. The farmers of adjacent villages do not know about this public hearing. During presentation, it was told that public notice was published in local news paper regarding this hearing but I have letter of Grampanchayat mentioning that the subject of public hearing have not come for discussion before the Grampanchayat. I am submitting representation about this. This is an important issue, hence, factory management should reply this question first and then we will discuss on other issues.

Shri Dilip Khedkar, Member replied that the procedure of conducting public hearing was started from 2006 in which every person has right to ask que related to effects of problems to the public from pollution. As per procedure, it is necessary to publish a public notice is Marathi and in English languages in local news papers before 30 days of public hearing in which the



date and time public hearing is mentioned. In the notice it is also mentioned that the copies of EIA report are made available for the study of public, public can submit their objections, questions, suggestions and as per Notification the copies are kept in offices of Grampanchayat in whose area the proposed project is located, tehsil place, district place, SRO and RO of MPCB, Head Office of MPCB, Environment Department, Mumbai etc. which is also mentioned in the public notice. The convener is not responsible if public has not read the public notice. After receipt of proposal from project proponent, it is the sole responsibility of MPCB to conduct the public hearing. You can tell us if there is any mistake on the part of MPCB. But MPCB has acknowledgement of Grampanchayat of notice along with documents. In addition, all farmers, leaders and employees of the factory have right to express their views in the public hearing. We are also going to take note of your representation in minutes of the public hearing and the minutes will be submitted to MOEF. If they find that there is any non compliance, then they will take further decision.

**Q.2. Shri Rahul Madhukar Pujari, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

Question is about waste water management. I have analysed our well water from laboratory before two years and in its analysis report it is mentioned that the water is not fit for irrigation and it is not potable. My agricultural land is located at two sides. One is nearby the factory. In short I tell you history of this sugar factory. This is a drought area and hence, the main persons in our village wanted this sugar factory to start for which they gave their lands by showing trust on verbal assurance of the factory management that the sugar factory will be started for good reasons in the name of Shree Shree Ravi Shankar. They had also accepted condition of the villagers in a meeting with them which was held at the village that we will not start distillery and will not take production of alcohol or spirit plant. Farmers gave their lands for the benefit of the village. But the sugar factory has not complied the conditions related with environmental pollution. The village road by which the committee members came for this public hearing is not owned by



the sugar factory, these are the lands of the farmers. They are all small farmers and all their livelihood depends upon farming. The question of land for constructing road is yet not solved. The SCR/welfare fund shown in the presentation has not been utilized in this village. There is question of water pollution. I have analysed water from laboratories at Sangli and Pune. In their report it is mentioned that the water is not fit for irrigation and it is not potable water. The industry is going to use water from Rajewadi dam but Sangli district is drought area and Rajewadi dam has not filled completely from last six years. Today's condition is that there is no rain in this area and the dam is dry. Also the agricultural lands near the lake are totally dependent on its water and the nature and in future, the project proponent is going to lift this water for the project. Hence, they should change source of water and also I request the committee not to allow the project proponent to lift water from Rajewadi dam.

**Q.3. Shri Namdev Shankar Pujari, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

Have you visited the agricultural lands of the farmers to check pollution caused by the factory? What has factory management done for betterment of the farmers of nearby villages as shown in the presentation? There are only 25 farmers present in the public hearing all other are factory employees/workers. I have come here to ask the factory management why they are cheating farmers. When the factory was established at that time I was only person to help the factory management. But they have fraudulently taken our lands. The management of the sugar factory, and all people present here know the contribution my family has done to while establishing the sugar factory. Eventhough they are exploiting us. They have eye on the lands of the farmers. I will never allow distillery to start unless measurement of land bearing No. 235 is done. Shri Namdev Pujari asked the chairman of the public hearing committee about what decision has been taken by the District Collector and Tahsildar on his representation submitted to them regarding issue of ownership of land and also he showed all documents related to his family land to the committee members. He requested the committee members



to go through the 7/12 extracts on which names of the farmers have been shown as owners. He told that the factory management has taken our lands forcefully for many years. The factory has acquired 2 to 3 acres of lands from all farmers. Please take land measurements. I have objection to the proposed project. Concerned authority should take note of my questions and decide.

**Q.4. Shri Tanaji Navnath Jaraq, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the factory are trying to establish distillery without intimating villagers of this area. Downside the canal, villagers have constructed a well in where there is no water for irrigation. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the factory never meet farmers. This project is dangerous to us and our agricultural lands.

**Q.5. Shri. Shri. Pandhurang Tukaram Kodalkar, Village Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

The factory management has fraudulently acquired lands of farmers and hence we have objections to the project. The factory management has totally cheated farmers by way of talking sweet. They have cheated villagers by taking disadvantages of their illiteracy. I say that the proposed project should not start

**Q.6. Shri. Ajit Pandhurang Sartape, Village Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

Factory pay more rate to farmers outside this area but pay less rate to local farmers of Rajewadi village. Also the less salary is paid to the factory workers residing in Rajewadi whereas more salary is paid to other workers by the factory. Not a single worker in the factory is permanent. We have helped the factory management in all ways but there is no help from the management to people.



**Q.7. Shri Rahul Manohar Pujari, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

Due to the scarcity of water in our village, drinking water is supplied once in four days. We drink polluted water because we have no other option. Most of the villagers and farmers are illiterate. Hence, factory has pressurized them. Please visit the distillery. Its waste water flows all over the lands of farmers. The factory management is deliberately discharging the waste water to harass the farmers. Less salary is paid to the agricultural workers. Employees of the factory are exploited. There is no land with the factory to construct roads, these roads are passing through the agricultural lands of the farmers. The farmers are shown bait that they will be given jobs in the factory if they give their lands to factory for roads, but no job is given. MPCB should look into the pollution problems due to the factory. I will send photos on whatsapp. In no way is the management capable to run the distillery unit.


Shri Namdev Pujari requested to discuss and decide on this matter.

**Q.8. Shri Vijay Anandrao Pujari, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

I am a farmer. The factory management has forcefully taken me to notarize. We had agreed to notarize on both sides but they have not yet notarized on their part. The factory has constructed road on three acres out of seven acres of agricultural land owned by me and my family. There is same FRP for our sugarcane in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara districts which is not given by the factory. Factory should give us FRP of Sangli district.

**Q.9. Shri Vishnu Ramu Hegade, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

The motto of this sugar factory is 'Betterment of farmers and service of nature'. At the time of establishing sugar factory, the management had told that they would not start distillery and now they are going to start it. Permission should not be granted to the distillery. The employees in the



factory are not treated fairly. Employees are asked to leave the job. The proposed project is harmful for village Rajewadi.

**Q.10. Shri Sarjerao Bajrang Shirkande, Rajewadi, Tal: Atpadi, Dist: Sangli.**

I reside in village Rajewadi and I have agricultural land in this area. We felt in the good name of Shri Sadguru that such type of project will not come here. But it is going to be a dishonor to the name of Shri Sadguru. The waste water of this factory has mixed in the well water which is supply to the villagers for drinking purpose. This project is harmful to the agricultural land. Please don't start the project. Instead of the proposed project, some other project should be started for the betterment of society and from the point of view extra income from extra work for people within 10 Kms radius. The proposed project is totally hazardous to the society and agricultural land. The people in village Rajewadi strongly oppose the proposed project.

**Reply :-**

To the above objections, Shri Nitin Sandanshi, Technical Consultant of the project proponent, replied that the figures shown in the presentation are in respect of the proposed project. It shows the parameters and values after treatment. Also the information regarding use of funds shown during the presentation is for proposed project.

Shri Rahul Pujari said that the figures shown regarding noise pollution, air pollution etc. are based on the samples collected while the factory was close. The problem of present waste water has yet not solved. If the proposed project is started, the quantity of waste water will increase. Also during presentation it was shown that the water for the proposed project will be taken from one more dam i.e. 'Sulewadi dam', but this dam has never filled to its full capacity because this is a drought area. If the water as shown in the presentation is used for the proposed project, no water will remain for drinking purpose.





Shri Nitin Sandanshi further informed that in distillery, ethanol and spirit will be produced. Ethanol is used as fuel and spirit is used for industrial purpose. Shri Dilip Khedkar instructed the technical consultant to give information to the people about waste water treatment and zero discharge because they fear that pollution is caused due to such type of projects and there will be increase in the waste water if you start the proposed project.

The technical consultant replied that to achieve zero liquid discharge the distillery will provide Bio methanation plant followed by multi effect evaporator system and solid/concentrated spent wash will be mixed with pressmud.

Shri Rahul Pujari told that the spent wash storage tanks of the factory have leakages from last four years which had percolated throughout village Rajewadi. The industry has discharged spent wash into nalla. Even though, at the time of establishing sugar factory, the management had assured that they will not discharge waste water out side the factory, they have discharged it outside which I will show. Due rains this mixes in wells, lakes and spreads on the land. I am sure that the factory management can not develop green belt. Also air pollution is caused from bagasse of the factory. In monsoon, roads are damaged due to transportation of factory vehicles which cause problems to two wheelers and vehicles slip. This problem has arisen from the day when sugar factory started. Waste water enters into farmers land. Condition here is very bad. People have doubts whether management has ability to run proposed project so good. Hence, environmental pollution problems will continue.

Shree Dilip Khedkar told that as per the presentation shown, the management is going to develop green belt on 20 acres of land out of 103 acres of total land owned by the project proponent. He instructed that green belt must be developed on 33% of the total land, hence, it should be done on 33 to 34 acres. The green belt should be developed around the factory by planting heighted trees to prevent entry of bagasse into nearby land.



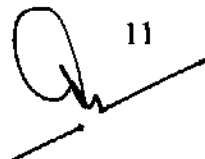
Shri Rahul Pujari requested that MPCB should specify the area for tree plantation so that the project proponent shall not carry out tree plantation on farmers lands. The management has acquired lands from number of farmers which is beyond ceiling limit. MPCB should also visit the site where factory has discharged waste water.

Shri Khedkar asked that what will be the pattern and qualifications of the staff who will look after environment management of the proposed project and what is the plan. Shree Sandansingh replied that we are going to have an effective management system for which skilled and qualified engineers and professional environmental staff will be appointed in order to run the effluent treatment plant efficiently. Shree Rahul Pujari requested MPCB to specify the area and panel for the same and to instruct the factory management to form a panel including representatives of grampanchayat, famers, and villagers etc. Also there are less that 0.5% of villagers working in the factory on less salary. Hence, the factory should implement labour welfare programmes. Shree Khedkar told that this committee will record your views and minutes of the public hearing will be submitted to MOEF for final decision. This committee has no right to take any decision about the proposed project. The experts in MOEF take decision after study of problems of the people and terms and conditions are laid down. He also instructed that the qualification of the head of the environment cell of the factory should be minimum M.Sc. Environment.

Shri Sandanshi replied that the suggestion of Shri Rahul Pujari is very good and it is accepted by the factory management. We will involve local people in their questions related to the environment, discuss with them and decisions will be taken after consultation with them. We will install such type of effluent treatment plant that the question of pollution due to waste water will not arise. If any accident takes place, we will discuss the matter with the villagers and decision will be taken after consultation with them.

Thereafter, Shri Trigun Kulkarni, Chairman of the public hearing committee said that on page No. 37 of the presentation it is shown that the noise levels from 10 AM to 10 PM will be 64.9 dB to 75.4 dB, but permissible

limit is 75 dB. Whether this measurement has been carried out inside the factory premises or outside of it and at what distance from the factory? The technical consultant replied that it has been on the factory gate. The Chairman instructed MPCB to check the measurement. He said that the green belt should be developed properly. This factory is related with the good name of Shree Shree Sadguru and hence, the factory management should redress the complaints of the villagers. They should be taken in confidence and should not be exploited. They have small demands that should be fulfilled. Road should be constructed properly. Agriculture is the only business of the local villagers. They are ready to give additional land for the project because they want industry. But they should not be cheated while measuring and acquiring their lands. There should not be treated with injustice. Those trees which grow in the area and giving sufficient shadow in the summer should be planted. Trees like Neem, Mango, Chinch, Sitafal should be planted instead of Ashoka, Suru, Sag, Australian Pipe etc. You are going to lift additional water from the tank which is more than necessary. As a representative of District Magistrate, you must remove the sediments from tank and must take all steps to increase water levels in this area and water storage capacity. We are going to check this time to time. The whole fund provided for this should be used. You must immediately start the work of removing sediments and water conservation. Because, if all the water is used for the project, there will not be any water left for villagers. The factory must carry out the activities of water conservation and tree plantation. The Hon'ble Chairman asked question that in the proposed project bio-gas and bio methanation will be used for co-generation plant, so what precautions are the management going to take in case of heat and other pollutants? What kind of pollution will be caused from this activity? What about steam? Technical Consultant replied that bio-gas will be used for steam generation, thereby the use of bagasse will be reduced. Hon'ble Chairman asked you are going to use gas for co-generation, but have you carried out studies for this activity? He also told that people have complained about leakages of your waste water and you must stop this. You must provide effluent treatment plant which must run efficiently. Waste water



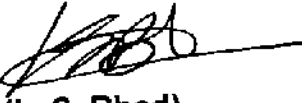


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shall not enter into the drinking and agriculture water source, otherwise action shall be taken on the factory. Hence, you must be very careful in this respect. You should minimize the nuisance of foul smell generation from fermentation process in the distillery. The technical consultant accepted this suggestion.

The Hon'ble Chairman further told that the project proponent has increased the height of the chimney and hence, the ash will spread beyond 500 meters which presently spreads over 100 meters. The technical representative replied that to prevent air pollution E.S.P. will be provided. Hon'ble Chairman told that the factory management should discuss the officers of the workers union regarding issues related to the workers/employees of the factory. The issue of F.R.P. will be submitted to the Divisional Commissioner. This factory should run properly without causing any kind of pollution thereby redressing the problems of the local people they will benefit from the project. This is drought area and the problems of the villagers should be solved.

After above discussion, Shri Dilip Khedkar told that all people have participated and expressed their views peacefully in the environmental public hearing. He told that the minutes of the public hearing will be submitted to the Central Government through State Government. Thereafter, on behalf of MPC Board he thanked all participants on for their cooperation in conducting the public peacefully and after permission of the Hon'ble Chairman concluded the public hearing.

The copies of written objection from Grampanchayat Rajewadi Tal-Atpadi, Dist-Sangli received in respect of the proposed project is enclosed with these minutes.

		
(L. S. Bhad) Convener Cum Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board, Sangli	(Dilip Khedkar) Member Cum Regional Officer MPC Board, Kolhapur	Trigun Kulkarni) 24/01/2015 Chairman Cum Additional District Magistrate Sangli