

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF M/S. GODAVARI MARATHWADA IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AURANGABAD FOR THEIR PROPOSED KRISHNA MARATHWADA LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT, OSMANABAD CONDUCTED ON 03/04/2012 AT 11.00 A.M. AT THE PARIMAL MANGAL KARYALAYA, NEAR AKASHWANI KENDRA, NAIKWADI NAGAR, OSMANABAD.

An environmental public hearing in respect of M/s. Godavari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation, Aurangabad for their proposed Krishna Marathwada Lift Irrigation Project, Osmanabad was conducted on 03/04/2012 at 11.00 a.m. at the Parimal Mangal Karyala, Near Akashwani Kendra, Naikwadi Nagar, Osmanabad.

• Following members were present during the public hearing :

1. Shri Prashant Suryawanshi,
Sub-Divisional Officer,
Osmanabad, Dist: Osmanabad. Chairman.
2. Shri A. D. Mohekar,
Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad. Member.
3. Shri V.P. Shelke,
I/c Sub-Regional Officer,
MPCB, Latur. Convener.

A list of members and public participants present for Public Hearing is annexed herewith. All those present were given welcome by the Convener. **Shri V.P. Shelke**, I/c Sub-Regional Officer of the Board at Latur with the permission of the Chairman of Panel narrated the procedure to be followed for obtaining environmental clearance from Government of India by explaining the provisions of the MoEF Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 and Summary of the project right from the date of consent application received till fresh notice issued by MPCB in the local newspapers Daily Lokmat dated 01/03/2012 and Daily Lokmat Times dated 02/03/2012. He briefed that as per the said notification, some specific Projects like Irrigation Projects, State/National Highways, Mining Project, Thermal Power Plants, Co-generation Plants, Cement, Sugar & Distilleries, River/Valley Projects, Construction Projects, Port Development Projects, Petrochemical Industries, etc. require Environmental Clearance from the Central Government and the proposed project of **Lift Irrigation** falls under the said Notification, hence it is necessary to conduct the public hearing for the said project. He further stated that there is no any written objection about the said project is received either by this office or Collector Office, Osmanabad and requested the Project Proponent with the permission of the Chairman of the Panel to brief the presentation of their proposed project.

Shri V.M. Patil, the Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Osmanabad stated that the Krishna Marathwada Lift Irrigation Project is a ambitious project and as the Osmanabad district comes under draught prone area, the Government of Maharashtra has given the administrative approval on 23/08/2007 to the said project having the project cost of Rs. **2382** Corers. He stated that the proposed project will be completed in **2** stages, i.e. LIS-I includes

Paranda, Bhoom, Washi, Kallam & Osmanabad talukas in Osmanabad district and LIS-II includes Tuljapur, Lohara & Omerga talukas in Osmanabad district. Initially the permission was granted for lifting of **25** TMC of water under the said project and thereafter the Government of Maharashtra given administrative approval on 27/08/2009 for the proposed project costing to Rs. **4845** Crores in which LIS in Beed district is also included. He stated that in LIS-I about **10.41** TMC of water will be lifted from Ujani Reservoir for which a tunnel of **27** km. in length from Ujani reservoir to Sina Kolegaon Dam is proposed and the work of the same has also been started due to which the water will be received to Sina Kolegaon Dam. The Sina Kolegaon Dam is having the capacity of **5** TMC and same has already been completed in all respects. Further, the water from Sina Kplegaon Dam will receive to Sakat Medium Project through canal. There are **2** Nos. of Lift Irrigation Schemes at Sakat Project, i.e. LIS-III (A) & LIS-III (B) by means of which it will be beneficial for the villages Ganeshgaon, etc. in the area for irrigation purposes. He stated that likewise in total **5** stages about **87188** hectares of land in Osmanabad and **27543** hectares of land in Beed district will be irrigated and requested **Shri Harsure**, the representative of Executive Engineer of Stage-II to brief further.

Shri Harsure, the representative of Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Scheme, Osmanabad, Stage-II (LIS-II) stated that it is the provision to provide the water to Tuljapur, Lohara and Omerga talukas in Osmanabad district under the Krishna Marathwada Lift Irrigation Scheme for which the construction work of barrages on river Sina at village Ghatane is in progress from where about **7.57** TMC of water will be lifted due to which about **36708** hectares of area will be irrigated.

Shri Yewala, the Project Consultant from Science & Technology Park, University, Pune started the power point presentation of the proposed project of Krishna Marathwada Lift Irrigation Project, Osmanabad and stated that primarily the administrative approval was granted by the Government of Maharashtra to the said project in the year 2007 and further amendment approval was granted in the year 2009. He stated that the said project is proposed for **87188** hectares area in **8** talukas, i.e. Bhoom, Paranda, Kallam, Washi, Osmanabad, Tuljapur, Lohara and Omerga in Osmanabad district for which the main source of water is KrishnaBhima Project from which about **15.32** TMC of water will be made available through Ujani Reservoir. Likewise, about **2.66** TMC of water will be made available from catchment area at the downstream of Sina Kolegaon Project, i.e. total **17.98** TMC of water can be taken for LIS-I & LIS-II. He stated that considering the draught prone area of Osmanabad district, the Government has approved the proposed scheme of Lift Irrigation for the small, medium and large farmers in the area. As stated above, he again repeated that about **87188** hectares of area will be irrigated due to the above said project, i.e. the taluka-wise area in hectares is as Paranda – **19969**, Bhoom – **22444**, Washi – **2161**, Kallam – **1839**, Osmanabad – **6928**, Tuljapur – **23800**, Omerga – **7655** & Lohara – **7343**. He further stated that the Public Hearing is being conducted from the point of view of environmental angle and briefed that while adopting any developmental scheme, it ultimately impacts on the environment directly or indirectly.

While briefing about the environment, first of all he briefed about the physical and biological environment and stated that except monsoon season, almost the climate in the area is dry. The average rainfall in the area is in the range of **400** mm to **700** mm. The soil in the area is undulating and having less salinity & less alkalinity. There is deficiency of irrigation schemes in

the project area. The farming in the command area of the proposed project mainly depends on the rain water and therefore the *kharip* and *rabbi* crops like *jowar*, *bajra*, groundnut, pulses, wheat, vegetables and sugarcane on a very small scale are being taken. However, the perennial cash crops are not taken in the area due to less rainfall. He stated while studying about the environment, various factors like water, air, animals, plants, lifestyle, etc. are to be studied.

While briefing about the water environment, **Shri Yewala** stated that they have studied the quality of surface water and underground water during pre-monsoon period, post monsoon period and in winter season by collecting **35** samples of underground water and **28** samples of surface water from various places like Ghatane, Sawargaon, Pangradhwadi, Masala, Ramdara, Hangarga, Honala, Barul Wadgaon, Khuneshwar, Padsali, Wangi, Gavadi, Kemwadi, Jawala, Koral, Yenegur, Omerga, etc. and came to the conclusion that the quality of the water available in the proposed project area is useful for irrigation. He stated that they have carried out the physical and chemical study of soil in the project area by collecting **117** samples at various locations during three seasons, i.e. pre-monsoon, post monsoon and winter season and observed that the quality of the soil in the area is good. The land is undulating, fertile and the pH of the soil in the area is very good at river side or at the site where the perennial farming is done. If water is made available the cash crops can be taken in the project area. He also shown the locations from where the samples of soil were taken.

Shri Yewala briefed about the land use pattern and stated that they have carried out the study by taking satellite picture and observed the land use pattern in the project area is as crop area – **39.26%**, agriculture land – **25.87%**, open land – **26.21%**, water bodies – **3.35%** (river, lake, etc.), human habitation – **1.90%** and plantation – **0.10%**, etc.

He briefed about the socio-economic condition in the project area and stated that the ratio of male and female persons is **52 : 48**, educated and uneducated is **58.51 : 41.49** and farming is the main source for their survival. He stated that if the water is made available due to the proposed project, cash crops can be taken, good quality (improved) of various types of seeds like oil seeds can be cultivated and horticulture, etc. can be done by means of which there will be social and economical development of the local farmers in the project area. The proposed project will be beneficial mainly for the farmers those having very less and medium land. He stated that there is no any big forest in the area only the trees like *Limb*, *Babhul*, *Nivdung*, *Vedi Babhul*, etc. are observed at the side of agriculture fields. The common birds, animals, like sparrow, crow, deer, snake, etc. occur in the area, however no any rare type of species of plants, birds occur in the said area.

While briefing about the impact on environment due to the proposed project, **Shri Yewala** stated that due to the less and irregular rain fall, the area is included in the draught prone area. It is expected that due to the proposed Lift Irrigation Scheme the irrigation area will be increased by means of which the local climate will be changed upto some extent. Especially there will be no adverse effect on the temperature, humidity, wind speed, evaporation, etc. due to the proposed project and it is possible to increase the greenery (trees, plants, shrubs, etc.) on the land by means of available of water due to the said project. However, there is possibility of some changes in underground strata due to excavation work of canal, tunnel, pump house, etc. and other useful things.

Shri Yewala stated that there will be adverse effect on the air due to transportation, land leveling, by using machineries, vehicles, etc. but it will be temporary. Likewise, the noise level, surface water quality will be affected due to the said project for which they have conducted the study and prepared the Environment Management Plan. He stated that due to said project, the greenery on the land will be increased, various types of migratory birds like *Rohit*, *Karkocha*, etc. and their shelters, animals will be increased, fuel will be provided to the workers so as to avoid cutting of local plants as fuel and therefore there will be no adverse effect on the biodiversity in the area. He stated that due to the said project, the agriculture land will be under irrigation, small and medium farmers will be benefited, employment will be increased, agro based industries will be increased by means of which there will be social and economical development in the area. The growing plants along the lake, canal will increase the beauty of surrounding area. Availability of water will help in creating healthy environment in the area. The proposed project is useful for forming the non-cultivable land under cultivation. He stated that nowadays the well water level in the area is at a depth of about 3 mtr. However, it will be increased due to the said project. Due to excess use of water, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, there is the possibility of adverse impact on the soil and water quality in the command area, however, it will be avoided by arranging giving training programmes for the local farmers for adopting advanced agriculture technologies, drip irrigation system, less use of chemical fertilizers, land filling, land leveling, formation of various institutions at village/taluka level for preparing programmes for use of water, etc.

Shri Yewala briefed about the suggestion and control measures to be taken to prevent adverse impact before establishment of the project, when project work is in progress and after commissioning of the project and stated that they have studied about village/taluka-wise arrangement of *Gramsabha*, land acquisition as per necessity and Government Rules, rehabilitation of project affected people and monitoring of air, water, noise pollution, etc. before establishment of the project. He also stated that they have studied about the air, noise, water, soil, biodiversity, social health, command area development plan, green belt development, etc. when the work of the project is in progress and after commissioning of the project. He suggested to use excess fertile soil in the garden for beautification as well as land filling, to plant local species of plants in the low lying area so as to maintain the quality of land (to avoid soil erosion), to take care to use less land during the excavation work and to make the provision of water spraying arrangement on the road to control the dust emission problems due to traffic. In short, he stated that the measures will be taken to avoid adverse effects on the surrounding environment and various schemes will be adopted from the point of view of favourable effect on the surrounding area. He stated that provision of specific funds is made for the environment, in which the provision of about Rs. 683 Lakhs for green belt development, Rs. 50 Lakhs for monitoring of air & water quality, study of animal and various plant species is made.

After concluding the power point presentation, by **Shri Yewala**, Project Consultant; **Shri V.P. Shelke**, Convener with the permission of Chairman of the Panel requested all the public participants to explain their views, recommendations, objections, suggestions, if any about pollution problems and environmental aspects of the project. During the course of public hearing, the panel members and public participants raised certain questions related to the said project and same were answered by the Project Consultant/Project Proponent as below :

1. **Shri Maruti Laxman Wagh**, a resident of nearby village Rulesangavi in Bhoom Tehsil asked about the tree plantation to be done for the development of Green Belt in the proposed project area. **Shri Yewala**, the Project Consultant replied that as stated above, the provision of about Rs. 683 Lakhs has been made for the tree plantation and for the development of Green Belt Development local species of plants, like banyan tree, *pimpal*, *nimb*, etc. will be planted along the canal side, near pump house. He also stated that the detail information about cultivation of various species of plants is included in the Environment Management Plan.
2. **Shri V.P. Shelke**, I/c Sub-Regional Officer of MPCB, Latur and Convener of the Public Hearing asked whether the survey has been conducted about the cutting of trees when the work of the project will be in progress and whether any policy has been decided for plantation against cutting of tree? (i.e. Ratio of tree plantation against cutting of number of trees). Secondly, he pointed out that when the work of project will be in progress, there will be the dust emission problems to the people residing near road side, residential areas from where the canal will pass, birds, animals, etc. then what measures will be taken to minimize such problems? **Shri Yewala** replied that no big trees will be cut, however, some small trees will be cut, however, a development plan has already been prepared for development of green belt at canal side. He reported that the work of the project will be performed during the period **10.00** a.m. to **05.00** p.m., i.e. during the day time only and no work will be carried during the night time so as not to cause any adverse effect on the people, animals, birds, etc. by means of dust or noise pollution problems. He also reported that water will be sprayed for **2** to **3** times in a day on the road as well as in the area where the work will be in progress so as to minimize the dust emission problems.
3. **Shri Satish Patil**, Branch Engineer, Krishna Marathwada Division, Osmanabad asked whether any land of about **10** to **20** acres has been reserved for the plantation separately or whether the land is reserved along the canal side for the plantation. Then, **Shri V.M. Patil**, Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Osmanabad reported that the canal to be constructed will be of **500** k.m. in length and the provision of plantation to be carried out at the both sides of the canal has already been made so the plantation will be done along both the sides of canal on a large scale, and therefore there is no necessity to reserve land separately for the plantation.
4. **Shri A.D. Mohekar**, Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad and Panel Member pointed out that the work of the proposed project will be completed in two stages and asked about the rates to be applied for the farmers for utilizing the water from the said project. Then, **Shri Patil**, Executive Engineer reported that the prevailing rates will be applied for every farmers and no separate rates will be decided.
5. **Shri Balaji Sathe**, a resident of village Mohol in Solapur district pointed out that the work of proposed project has already been started in Solapur district and most of the work is completed, then he asked whether such environmental public hearing is conducted in Solapur district prior to start the said work and if such public hearing is not

conducted, then whether the public hearing will be conducted in Solapur district or otherwise? He further pointed out that in Stage-I the work of canal is almost completed then what about the tree plantation. **Shri Patil** replied that at present no such provision is made for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing in Solapur district. However, trees will be planted during the rainy season. **Shri Sathe** further asked about the criteria of land acquisition and water distribution as it seems to be done as per the opinion of the farmers or otherwise, then whether it will be reconsidered. **Shri Patil** clarified that the water is lifted from Krishna River Basin from Western Maharashtra by taking hard efforts for Marathwada and not for Western Maharashtra.. The land acquisition and settlement thereof is as per the Rules in force. He also clarified that the settlement against land acquisition can be done as per the views of the farmers and present situation, but there shall not be any court matter for the same. He further given the reference of Central Gazette that there are so many provisions for settlement against land acquisition as the cost of the land mentioned in it is more than 5 to 6 times of the earlier cost.

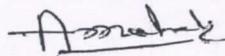
6. **Shri Madhav**, a nearby farmer in the area asked that for how many months the water in Stage-I will get to the farmers. It is replied by **Shri Patil** that the water will get for 8 months period. Then **Shri Madhav** asked about getting the water in Summer season, **Shri. Patil** clarified that the water will get from 1st July onward for 8 months period. **Shri. Madhav** further asked about the completion of the proposed project then **Shri. Patil** reported that today's cost of the proposed project is Rs. 5000 Crores and it is a 10 years planning. As the project is large, the work of the same will be completed as per the availability of funds.
7. **Shri Kute Vashist Narayan**, a nearby farmer of village Songiri, Tq. Bhoom, Dist: Osmanabad after asking about the water charges to be applied for the people in Songiri against lifting of water from the said project, **Shri Patil** stated that equal rates will be applied. **Shri Narayan** further asked that when the water charges will be same then why there is difference in the rates of land at the same place at village level and for the same project. **Shri Patil** clarified that the rates of the land differs at various places because of Sales Tax, Registry Charges, etc. However, he assured to discuss the issue at Collectorate, but **Shri Narayan** reported that the farmers can not attend the Collector Office, hence, the discussion shall be conducted at village level. He further asked whether the Project Proponent has obtained the permission from Environment Department for cutting of trees in Project area and how many trees are cut down and how any trees will be planted against the cutting of trees. **Shri Patil** reported that they seek necessary permission. He also stated that the trees coming under the submergence area will be cut town. **Shri Narayan** further asked how many trees are cut down at Songiri and how many trees will be planted. **Shri Patil** clarified that the length of the canal is about 250 km. and the trees will be planted at both the side of the said canal which will be more than the trees cut down.
8. **Shri Madhav**, a nearby farmer stated that there are two canals of the said project at two different sides, but the area between the two canal is on high side for which how the water will receive. **Shri Patil** reported that provision for the same is made, however, the water to such areas will receive after completion of all the Stages of the project.

Shri Madhav further asked whether the water can be lifted directly from Talav so that crops can be taken for **12** months, but **Shri Patil** stated that the distance of the Talav is very long and water will required to be lifted in two stages which will not be economical to lift the water directly. However, the Lift Irrigation Scheme will be very near to the said area due to which it will be easy to receive the water to the high area. After asking about availability of water for **12** months, **Shri Patil** reported that the water will get during the monsoon season, i.e. from 1st July to 31st October only.

9. **Shri T.R. Deshmukh**, Executive Engineer reported that the River Joining Project (*Nadya-Jod Parkalpa*) is not mentioned in the Notification dated 14th September, 2006 and asked as to whether the permission from Environment Department is required for such project or otherwise as the process of the same is time consuming, cost effective, etc. **Shri A.D. Mohekar**, Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad and Member of the Public Hearing Panel clarified that the question raised by **Shri Deshmukh** is not related with this Public Hearing and advised to take follow-up with concerned departments separately for the same. He requested the public participants to raise only the questions, views, suggestions, etc. related with the proposed project.

Shri Prashant Suryawanshi, Sub-Divisional Officer, Osmanabad & Chairman of the Panel stated that while the work of any major project is in progress, it definitely impacts on the environment. He stated in Osmanabad district, the climate is dry, rain fall is less, quality of land is not good, but in Konkan area, the situation is different as lot of rain is there. However, if the water is made available in Osmanabad area, definitely there will be certain changes. He further stated that Project Consultant/Project Proponent have conducted the study to know the changes after receiving the water to the area and therefore the public in the area were requested to attend this Public Hearing to express their views, doubts, questions, suggestions, objections, etc. about the said project. Accordingly discussion is took place thoroughly. He stated that the proposed project is of Lift Irrigation Scheme, hence there is very less possibility of land acquisition and therefore the attendance of the public is less otherwise most of the people in the area would have been participated in the Public Hearing. He stated that whatever the views, suggestions, questions, etc. expressed by the public participants will be included in the proceedings of today's Public Hearing and same will be submitted to the Government and then he concluded the Public Hearing.

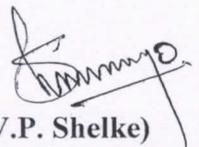
Lastly, the Public Hearing ended with a vote of thanks to **Chair**.



(A.D. Mohekar)
Member.



(Prashant Suryawanshi)
Chairman.



(V.P. Shelke)
Convener.