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**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED EXPANSION OF EXISTING MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY PROJECT FROM 30 KLPD TO 60 KLPD (INCREASE BY 30 KLPD) PROPOSED BY M/S. NATURAL SUGAR & ALLIED INDUSTRIES LTD., GAT NO. 290, SAINAGAR, VILLAGE RANJANI, TQ. KALLAM, DIST: OSMANABAD, MAHARASHTRA CONDUCTED ON 21/06/2019 AT 11.30 A.M. AT M/S. SHRI SAI MANGAL KARYALAYA, SAINAGAR, VILLAGE RANJANI, TQ. KALLAM, DIST: OSMANABAD, MAHARASHTRA.**

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An environmental public hearing in respect of **proposed Expansion of Existing Molasses Based Distillery Project from 30 KLPD to 60 KLPD (Increase by 30 KLPD)** proposed by M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Gat No. 290, Sainagar, Village Ranjani, Tq. Kallam, Dist: Osmanabad, Maharashtra was conducted on 21/06/2019 at 11.30 a.m. at M/s. Shri Sai Mangal Karyalaya, Sainagar, Village Ranjani, Tq. Kallam, Dist: Osmanabad, Maharashtra.

Following Panel members were present during the public hearing:

1. **Shri Rajendra Khandare,**  
Additional District Magistrate, Osmanabad,  
Dist: Osmanabad. Chairman.
2. **A.D. Mohekar,**  
Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board,  
Aurangabad. Member.
3. **Shri V.P. Shelke,**  
Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board,  
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. Then, **Shri V.P. Shelke**, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur and Convener of Public Hearing Panel with the permission of the Chairman of Public Hearing Panel narrated the procedure to be followed for obtaining Environmental Clearance by explaining the provisions of the MoEFCC, Government of India Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 and amended Notification No. S.O. 3067 (E) dated 01/12/2009 and Summary of the project right from the date of receipt of application resubmitted by the Project Proponent for conducting Public Hearing till fresh notice issued by MPCB in the newspapers Daily Lokmat Times (English) and Daily Sakal (Marathi) dated 17/05/2019. He stated that the **proposed Expansion of Existing Molasses Based Distillery Project from 30 KLPD to 60 KLPD** falls under 'A' Category of said Notification, which requires Environmental Clearance from the MoEFCC, Government of India, New Delhi, hence it is necessary to conduct the public hearing for the said project. He further stated that as per the said Notification, the copies of EIA Report and Executive Summary of the proposed project both

in English and Marathi were placed at various Government Offices, viz. Grampanchayat, Ranjani, Tehsil Office, Kallam, Collector Office, Osmanabad, District Industries Centre, Osmanabad, Zilha Parishad Office, Osmanabad, etc. for studying and people were requested to record the suggestions, objections, if any regarding the said project within 30 days from the publicity of advertisement of the said project in the newspapers. However, till date, no any complaint, suggestion, objection, etc. is received either at MPCB offices or other Government offices. But two suggestions from Hyderabad, i.e. one from Mr. Sunanda Reddy and other from Mr. H. Madhubabu are received by their office through e-mail. He handed over the copies of said suggestions to the Project Proponent and the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel and stated the reply of the same will be given by the Project Proponent after presentation of the said project. He further stated that video shooting and photography of the process of said public hearing will carried out and same will be submitted alongwith the views of public participants to the Committee of MoEFCC, which grants the Environmental Clearance.

**Shri Shelke** pointed out that in the year 2015, the EC Committee had directed the MPCB to initiate action against M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. as they had started the construction work of expansion project without obtaining Environmental Clearance and as per said directions, the MPCB has filed a prosecution case against the said industry on 20/04/2015 in the Court of CJM, Osmanabad. Thereafter, the Project Proponent approached the EC Committee in the year 2017 clarified all those things related with their project, upon which they have received TOR and as per the said TOR, the Technical Consultant of the project again prepared the Environment Impact Assessment Report, Executive Summary, etc. and resubmitted the documents. Then, with the permission of the Chairman of Public Hearing Panel for starting further process of public hearing, he stated that the Technical Consultant of the project will give the Power Point Presentation of the said project, which the public participants have to see and study the same and then he requested the public participants that if anybody is having any question related with the environment only about the said project, they may ask the same, which will be replied by the Project Proponent.

Thereafter, the Technical Consultant of the project, **Dr. Sangram Ghogare** from Equinox Environments (India) Pvt. Ltd. Kolhapur started the power point presentation of the proposed project and first of all as far as violation is concerned, he stated that due to some economical difficulties they had carried out the construction at the distillery premises without obtaining Environmental Clearance. He stated that as a compliance of earlier Environmental Clearance, they have to submit the report at every six months and when the MoEF officials visited their project for inspection before expansion with respect to the earlier Environmental Clearance at that time, the Project Proponent su-moto told them about the said construction of which the MoEF officials taken note of the same officially, upon which the MPCB has filed case against the said industry under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act. Thereafter, as per MoEF Notification issued in the year, 2017, the Project Proponent again applied for Environmental Clearance upon which the MoEF constituted a separate committee and the said committee issued TOR and permitted to the Project Proponent to proceed further for the proposed expansion project.

He showed the photographs of existing plant and stated that it is an Integrated Project Complex in which it is shown as Sugar Factory, Co-generation Plant and Distillery Plant.

Initially, Shri B. B. Thombare (Chairman of the Project) had established a very small unit of sugar factory of 1250 TCD capacity with keeping certain dream in his eyes, further in the year 2004, due to good sugarcane production and drip irrigation, they have increased the capacity of Sugar Factory upto 2500 TCD and established Co-generation Plant of 9 MW, then in the year 2007, they have established a Distillery Plant of 30 KLPD for the manufacture of Alcohol without any violation and further they have increased the capacity of Sugar Factory upto 5000 TCD and Co-generation Plant upto 22 MW due to increasing production of sugarcane. Means, at present, Sugar factory of 5000 TCD capacity, Co-generation Plant of 22 MW capacity and Distillery Plant of 30 KLPD are functional and only structure of the additional Distillery Plant of 30 KLPD of which violation is done has been kept ready; and if the additional Distillery of 30 KLPD is become functional after all the implementation, the total capacity of their Distillery Plant will be of 60 KLPD. He stated that earlier the Central Government has started a National Bio Fuel Policy under which they will produce Ethanol (after extracting water from alcohol, the remaining alcohol is 99.99% pure, which is called Ethanol), which can be blended in petrol directly due to which alcohol can be made substitute to the petrol by using renewable resource, i.e. sugarcane. He stated that the name of their project is in the list of Central Government and about Rs. 40 Cr. are sanctioned to them and therefore it is necessary to them to to produce alcohol by starting the distillery plant immediately so that they can supply alcohol by taking active part in the said scheme.

He briefed about the project and stated that at present they are having 51.60 hectares of land in which the area for sugar factory, co-generation plant, etc. is about 10 hectares and open area is about 15 to 16 hectares, he showed the balance sheet of the area in which the area for green belt, which is compulsory for them, is also shown. He briefed about the investment of the project and stated that about Rs. 130 Cr. invested in the sugar factory, Rs. 18 Cr. in the old distillery and about Rs. 27 to 30 Cr. will be invested for the proposed expansion project of distillery, i.e. total capital investment of the project will be about Rs. 200.0 Cr. He stated that it is known to all that the sugar factory and co-generation plant operated for a period of six months in a year and as the existing distillery is having bio-composting treatment, it is not operated during the rainy season for the period from June to September as per the Government norms, and therefore, the distillery having bio-composting treatment is operated only for 240 or 270 days in a year and due to non-operation of distillery in rainy season, alcohol will not be produced, which will be loss to them. But, in the proposed expansion project, they will adopt incineration boiler system instead of bio-composting treatment system due to which the distillery will be operated for 330 days in a year and due to which, they will get additional production, Government will get benefit, farmers will get the best rates and therefore, in such a way they have intended to establish such project of having socio-economic impact. He briefed about the Project Proponent and stated that the team of Shri Thombare Saheb is taking efforts for expanding the said project, it is a ambitious project and due to such alcohol project, the Government gets benefit through Excise duty, they get more money and the bio alcohol is of multi use instead of synthetic alcohol.

He further stated that the industries in this area (Marathwada Region) use the water in a very good manner and as compared with the industries in Western Maharashtra, it is seen that the industries in this region does not use a single drop of fresh water and whatever the water is in sugarcane is used totally in the process. He stated that they are having permission to use the water from river Manjra, but at present the said water has been reserved for drinking water and

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therefore the industry has prepared a model for use of water due to which effluent generation is also less; and the industries in this region are operated in a very good manner than the industries operated in Western Maharashtra, which a very good thing. He stated that they have reduced the use of water in distillery plant, He also stated that there are certain norms of Ministry/MPCB for use of water like per ton of alcohol, per ton of cane crushed, etc. and likewise, they have the permission to use 100 Ltr. of fresh water per ton of cane crushed for the sugar factory, but they do not use a single drop of fresh water because about 70% of water from sugarcane is treated completely and after condensate recycled in the process which saves the water, second thing is that effluent generation is reduced, as per the norms, there is generation of 200 Ltr. of effluent per ton of cane crushing, but they generate only 89 – 90 Ltr. of effluent per ton of cane crushing due to which it saves further treatment, handling, storage, disposal, power cost, chemical cost, etc. by means of which it gets direct benefit through sugarcane rates and money divert to the farmers. Hence, it is good model for sugar factory, which is followed by some people in Western Maharashtra and being he is a Consultant, he also suggests to follow such model

As far as production is concerned, **Dr. Ghogare** stated that from crushing of 1 Ton sugarcane, generally, production yield is as Sugar – 10%, Molasses – 4%, Press Mud – 4% and Bagasse - 30%. Sugar factory is one best example from which the sugar produced is exported, from molasses alcohol is prepared, press mud is used for composting and bagasse is used for boiler, means total waste or production from such project is taken in use. He stated that nowadays, initially, the farmers are getting loss due difference in production and sale of sugar, hence the Government has decided to produce Ethanol from molasses as molasses contains more sugar than usual due to which sugar production will be reduced and molasses generation will be increased and the rates of Ethanol are good, i.e. at present, the rates of sugar are about Rs. 30 - 32 per kg. whereas the rates of Ethanol used for petrol are about Rs. 45 - 46 per Ltr., means, in such a Integrated Project Complex, every organic part of sugarcane produced from land is harvested till it goes again into the land in the form of compost and it converts economically. He showed the chart of production and briefed that sugarcane received from the farmers at factory site is crushed and then sugar is produced, wherein they use sulphitation process. However, they will concentrate only and only on distillery at present. Likewise, he showed the closed circuit diagram of the Integrated Project Complex which involves Sugarcane Crushing → Bagasse → Boiler → High Pressure Steam → Turbine → Electricity → Grid & Factory and the remaining low pressure steam goes to factory and after condensate, it goes again to boiler where the evaporation losses are of 10 to 12% due to recirculation and after that the said water is again and again used for the boiler and in such a way it is a environment friendly and of socio-economic chain process.

As they are concentrating on distillery only, he briefed about the manufacturing process of distillery project and stated that in the molasses containing 42 to 45% residual sugar, 2.5 to 3 times of water is added for dilution and after dilution culture yeast is added in it, i.e. Fermentation process in which after 32 to 40 hours Ethyl Alcohol ( $C_2H_5OH$ ) is prepared, then the Ethyl Alcohol in Fermentation Wash is heated to form steam and after distillation it is separated and it is a very simple process. After separation of alcohol, the remaining material generated having tea color is called as Spent Wash (effluent), which is hazardous in nature as 8 liter. of spent wash generate during the manufacturing of 1 Liter of alcohol in distillery plant, which contains more organic matters and it is acidic in nature, however the contents of NPK in it

are very good. In the earlier days there was a treatment scheme suggested by MPCB to dilute the spent wash and use it in agriculture land, but due to high contents of Salt and TDS, the salinity of agriculture land was being increased and therefore its use stopped. He stated that during the period of 1998, 1999 and 2000, there was also a scheme of ferti-irrigation, but the MPCB has stopped the said scheme and then chosen Spent Wash Technology in which the organic matter in dung and other waste, etc.) and after biodegradation of organic matter, biogas is generated. He stated that maximum 30 Liter. of biogas generates from 1 KL. of spent wash, which is a large source of energy and due to use of such biogas in boiler, bagasse is saved. He stated that biogas is a clean fuel due to which there is no generation of ash and therefore MoEF and MPCB suggest for use of biogas. He stated that the issue regarding Carbon Credit is being discussed, which is the important step in Carbon Credit. He stated that after biomethanation, the pH of remaining material is neutralized in digester and after passing through Multi Effect Evaporator the effluent generated is reused in the distillery plant (as reported earlier regarding reuse of water from sugarcane). The MoEF norm for the use of water for distillery is 10 Ltr. per Ltr. of Alcohol, but they have reduced the use of water less than 2 liter, i.e. they save 8 Ltr. of water per Ltr. of Alcohol. He stated that they will work for total 60 KLPD of distillery plant after expansion instead of two separate plants of 30 KLPD capacity of distillery. The norms for spent wash generation is 8 Ltr. per Ltr. of Alcohol but they will reduce it as 1 Ltr. of Spent Wash per Ltr. of Alcohol and in this way, they reduce pollution on a large scale, conserve the water and such projects are agro based, mechanized falls under Integrated Project Complex and totally based on Skada & Automation System and on the similar lines of such other project, they will establish the said project.

He stated that at present, the water consumption is 12 CMD, which will be reduced upto 2 CMD by using technology, attitude and keeping foresight due to which water consumption will be saved and effluent generation will also be reduced. He again showed a diagram of closed circuit from production of sugarcane to it goes into land in the form of compost and stated that it is possible and is in operation, however, they will carry the same by mechanized and highly advanced system. He stated that M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries supports the scientific and new technologies and therefore the industry can be operated cost effectively by using various advanced technologies.

He briefed about the generation of waste water from distillery and stated that the spent wash generated from the distillery will be incinerated. Incineration technology was already there, but it was crude system because there were difficulties in burning spent wash, boiler was closing, shut down time was of 10 days after operation of 60 days, etc., but now, there are good quality of boiler, which can be operated continuously and it does not require any shut down period. He stated that out of 705 CMD of effluent generation 690 CMD (98%) of effluent will be recycled and the losses will be only of 2% through evaporation, etc. He showed the details of Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU) in which water from sugarcane and spent wash is treated and recycled and it is one type of ETP, which will be upgraded and used for expansion project.

While briefing about the air pollution, he stated that air pollution is an important factor in the factory because stack of sugar factory generates ash, it creates pollution and receives complaints from the people for which they are having 3 Nos. of high pressure boilers having

capacity of 30 TPH, 40 TPH & 70 TPH, which are provided with wet scrubber; and ESP will be provided for the distillery boiler. He stated that the performance of existing wet scrubbers is very good as the air quality being achieved by them is about 70 to 80  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  which is below the MPCB norms of 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . However, disadvantage of wet scrubber is that the effluent generated from it is to be used after treatment because it is wet system, but ESP is a dry system due to which its efficiency is good, hence they are having planning to provide ESP by replacing the wet scrubber in future after commissioning of distillery and getting money. He stated that  $\text{CO}_2$  is generated from fermentation process of proposed distillery plant, which is compressed, converted into food grade and sent through tankers to the cold drinks manufacturing industries like Pepsico, etc. through which they get money. He stated that sources of fugitive emission are press mud yard, compost yard, ash storage, road, transportation, etc. and to reduce the dust emission, they have carried out asphalt work (dambrikaran) in the factory premises, about 70% work is completed and remaining work will be completed within one or two years step by step and water is sprinkled on it during the season,

He stated that the solid waste generation from the project is ash, sludge from CPU, etc., which is classified in the Consent by the Environment Ministry, the sludge is disposed by using it in compost and the ash sale to brick manufacturer. The compost is prepared from Press mud, CPU sludge and spent wash generated from their factory, which is costly, but given to the farmers at nominal rates. He also stated that as he himself, is a farmer, he also use such compost in his own agriculture land. He stated that there is generation of hazardous waste from the distillery process, i.e. Distillation Residue which contains salt and after separation of salt, it will be used in biocomposting or burnt into the incineration.

He further briefed about the sound pollution and stated that the sound from production area of the factory does not reach upto the gate of factory because they have planted big trees having big canopy, big leaf, and those trees work as noise barrier. Besides this, they have carried out insulation, provided canopy and reduced the noise pollution. The noise level in the area is 50 to 55 decibels as against the industrial norms of 75 dB(A).

He briefed about the Green Belt and stated that at present they are having the green belt of 27% as against the norms of 33%, but after expansion they will carry the tree plantation of 24% for which plan is ready with them and upto the year 2021, they will develop the green belt on 51% area.. He stated that there was problem of water due to which it was finding difficult to survive the plants, but by using drip irrigation they have developed the green belt in the area and now they have planned to plant about more than 9750 trees by using the total condensate water from the distillery project and at present they are having 52500 Nos. of trees in their factory area.

He further briefed about the Rain Water Harvesting and stated that they have made available about 85 million ltrs. of water through Rain Water Harvesting which can fulfill the need of water for one day for the big cities like Kolhapaur, Pune or for 15 days for a Taluka and after recharging the said water into the ground, the ground water table has been increased by 9.35 mtr., which during earlier study observed was below 32 to 33 mtr, means it is positive impact on the water. He showed the picture showing the existing green belt as well as proposed tree plantation to be carried out during the expansion project at compost yard, press mud yard sites, etc. He also showed the pictures of existing plantation, avenue plantation, rain water harvesting

system and stated that they have already provided 2 Nos. of water tanks of 3500 Cu.m. capacity (each) and proposed to provide one tank of 10000 cu.m. capacity under the Rain Water Harvesting and the water stored will be reused in the factory due to which only 20% water will be taken from the dam.

He briefed about the Disaster Management Plan and stated that the main source in such a distillery project is Ethanol Storage Tank, which is very dangerous for which they have provided dike wall at the ethanol and molasses storage tanks, flame arrester for ethanol storage tank, fire fighting measures and PESO permission, etc. as per the norms of Industrial Health & Safety Department as well as MPCB., Bagasse Yard in the sugar factory is provided with fire fighting arrangement, latest interlocking, alarm system and visual display, etc. are provided at Co-generation plant, which is need and legal aspect, which they have implemented. He also showed the photographs of ambulance, fire fighting devices, etc. He showed the satellite picture of Aloha Software Output and stated that for carrying out the study for the preparation of Environment Impact Assessment Report, it is necessary to have a accredited consultant and their organization is Accredited Consultant having 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank in the country and also they are having the Softwares of Rs. 42 Lakh. He again briefed about the Disaster Management Plan and stated that the on-site and off-site plans for the same are ready with them.

While briefing about the Social Development, he stated that they have spent about Rs. 3.5 Cr. Towards social development in the area during the period from 2011 to 2019. But, now, the Government has issued a Notification for the Social Environment Responsibility (CER) under which the Project Proponent has to expend minimum amount of 1.5% of the total capital investment, however, they expend more than the minimum expenditure. He stated that they will expend about Rs. 80/- Lakh towards conventional/renewable energy sources, water conservation, cleanliness campaign, municipal solid waste management, etc. and the said amount is more than the amount of 1.5% of the total capital investment of said distillery project. He stated that the recurring expenditure towards air pollution control system, effluent treatment plant, noise pollution control system, environment monitoring and management, etc. is about Rs. 16.55 Cr. per year, which is 10.5% of total capital investment and in future, they will expend about Rs. 27.5 Cr. per year towards recurring expenditure, which is 15% of the total capital investment, i.e. total 25% amount of total capital investment will be spent towards environment management.

He stated that the distillery plant is totally Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) system based plant from which not a single drop of effluent will be discharged outside the factory premises and the permission granted by the Environment Department, MPCB will be followed totally.

**Dr. Sangram Ghogare** further briefed about the Environment Impact Assessment study and stated that in the earlier days this work was being done as per thumb rule because at that there were no environmental problems, pollution problems, population was less and the public awareness was also less, but now, all these things are increased, drinking water is not available, resources are being reduced day by day and therefore, MoEF has issued a Notification in the year 2006 in which it has been written that the protocol is to be followed by the industry. Hence, he stated that as per the said Notification, they have carried out study within the area of 10 km. radius of the proposed project site for air quality, water quality, noise level, biodiversity, etc. within three months by visiting the concerned locations and the total record of the same is



available internet/Government of India He stated that they are having 17 experts including himself and one NABL approved laboratory, where study, analysis, etc. is done. He showed the details of analysis results, monitoring locations in the study area viz, Project Site, Pimpalgaon, Bhosa, Tadgaon, etc. and stated that they have taken the satellite images of the project area from NRSC, Hyderabad and studied them. He also also showed the topographic map of project site, land use pattern, drainage patterns, etc. He showed the data of AAQM carried out within three months from October, 2018 to December, 2018 including slides of windrows, GLC and stated that the pollution to be increased due to existing and proposed boilers in distillery will be well within the prescribed norms, e.g. the concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> will be 80 µg/m<sup>3</sup> against prescribed norms of 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. He showed different types of Isopleths and the data regarding in case of failure of ESP or ETP He stated that during the study of biodiversity, they observed Black Bucks, Black Ibis, etc., but no endangered or threaten species are observed in the said area. He showed the photographs of large mango tree, habitats observed in the study area and stated that no large forest is observed in the area, only bushes, shrubs are observed and the total data is included in the EIA report.

As reported earlier, he again briefed about the violation and stated that violation means they have constructed a building without obtaining EC as per the Notification, 2006 for which MoEFCC has issued Notification on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. As per the said Notification, the Government has to file case against the Project Proponent, which is filed, TOR shall be obtained from MoEFCC Committee, which is obtained, EIA report shall be prepared under Violation, which is being prepared. He stated that being he is accredited consultant, as per the said Notification due to violation, they have prepared Environmental Damage Assessment Plan and the Remediation Plan only for violation by carrying study and as per the Remediation Plan, the cost of environmental damages worked out to Rs. 70.0 Lakh, which is checked by the Experts in Delhi and as per their suggestions, the Project Proponent has to submit the Bank Guarantee of such amount to MPCB and after compliance of the Remedial Action Plan, the said Bank Guarantee gets return to them. He stated that the compliance will be certified by MoEFCC office which is at Nagpur and MPCB for which a separate Cell has been formed. Thereafter, he concluded the power point presentation of the proposed expansion project and requested that if anybody would like to ask any question, doubt, they may ask the same.

Then, **Shri V.P. Shelke**, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur & Convener of Public Hearing Panel requested the public participants that if anybody is having any question about the proposed expansion project of distillery, related with environment only, they may ask the same by telling their name and their village. 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, which are as below :

1. **Shri Rangnath Ramdas Narwade**, a resident of nearby village Pimpri Shiradhon, Tq. Kallam, Dist: Osmanabad asked about the expenditure of the proposed alcohol production project, upon which **Dr. Sangram Ghogare**, the Project Consultant stated that the total capital investment of the proposed project is about Rs. 30.0 Cr.

2. **Shri Dilip Dhapate**, a resident of nearby village Bhatunga in Osmanabad district asked whether waste water will be generated from the said project, and if so, then how it will be disposed? **Dr. Ghogare** stated that no, there will be no generation of any effluent from distillery project because it is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) based project. However, the effluent generated from sugar factory after treatment it is used on land for gardening within factory premises, but there is no generation of effluent from the distillery project.
  
3. **Shri Laxman Shahajirao Kaldate**, a resident of village Tat Borgaon, Tq. Ambajogai, Dist: Beed asked about the benefit to be received to the people in the surrounding area due to the proposed project. **Dr. Gogare** reported that the question is sensitive, hence the Chairman of the project will speak on the same. **Shri Thombare**, Chairman of the said project stated that since establishment of the factory, today, there is 30000 Ltr./day capacity of distillery, capacity of sugar factory has been increased upto 5000 TCD, additional molasses is become available on a large scale due to increase in capacity of sugar factory and therefore they planned to establish the expansion project of distillery for processing of said molasses. He stated that this year they have given the rate of Rs. 2487/- to the farmers those who gave their sugarcane to their factory (M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd.) in which there is additional rate of Rs. 175/- per ton of sugarcane received due to the alcohol production in the distillery project and therefore the farmers in the area can get more rate of about Rs. 150/-, 175/- or Rs. 200/- per ton of sugarcane after commissioning of the proposed expansion project as the Central Government has increased the rates of Ethanol and it will be the direct benefit to the farmers. He stated that second benefit is that, as reported earlier by the Project Consultant that more activities will be carried out during the expansion project than the earlier activities from the net profit under the CSR like water conservation, tree plantation, health activities, etc. He stated that during the last three years they have installed R.O. Plants at 10 Nos. of villages in the area and provided the clean water at the reasonable rate of 10 Paise per Ltr. to the people, constructed separate toilets for the girls and boys of Zilha Parishad Schools, conducted the e-learning programme for computerization and modernization for the education in rural area, carried out the work of water conservation in 15 villages during the year 2015-2016 in the area from the CSR funds and hence he stated that after commissioning of the proposed expansion project, there will be increase in their profit due to which they can carry more works for social use. **Dr. Ghogare** stated that they are having planning for employment for about 60 persons in the proposed expansion project of distillery and preference will be given to about 90% local people.
  
4. **Priyanka Sunil**, a resident Beed city asked that how many ltr/day of water will be required for the said project. **Dr. Ghogare** stated that it is a very good question and clarified that about 109000 Ltr/day (109 CMD) of fresh water will be required for the said project, out of which 50% of water will be used for domestic purpose and 50% for the process, it means out of 100 Ltr. water, only 12 Ltr. of fresh water will be required and remaining 86 Ltr. of water will be recycled.

5. **Shri Kuchekar Vashisht Parasram**, a resident of nearby village Ranjani, Tq. Kallam, Dist: Osmanabad asked about the measures to be taken for the pollution due to boiler. **Dr. Ghogare** stated that they will provide Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) to the new boiler which have the efficiency of about **88.5 to 99.9%** efficiency due to which there will be no any ash/pollution problem and MPCB also suggest such types of pollution control system.
6. **Shri Gaikwad Shivaji**, a resident of nearby village Saundana, Tq. Kallam, Dist: Osmanabad asked about the quantity of alcohol to be produced from the said project, upon which **Dr. Ghogare** stated that **60000** Ltr/day of alcohol will be produced from the proposed expansion project.
7. **Shri Sunanda Reddy**, the Environmentalist, Hyderabad stated that first of all he congratulates the management of M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. And support them. He stated that he is the first Environmentalist in India who supports the industries because unemployment problem is being faced in India. Govt. of India provides about **4 to 5** Lakh employment every year, but about **1** Crore people come to open market every year. Only the industry provides maximum employment, in this regard, he supports the management whole heartedly. He stated that he congratulates the management for selecting the experienced and expert consultant who has prepared the EIA report thoroughly. He appreciated that **33%** plantation is according to Government norms is very good, but today the ecological imbalance is very high, at the time of independence, the population of India was **36** Cr. and now it is gone upto **130** Cr., the geographical area of India is **80** Cr. Lakh sq.m., hence he suggested to carry out about **50 to 60%** plantation, if possible and incorporate the same in the EIA report, which is very useful for the industry, to take Rain Water Harvesting on whatever the land available with the company, which is very useful to improve ground water and to industry, to give priority to local employment, to give skill development training to the remaining unemployed people so that they can work anywhere in the other industries, country and other State also. He also suggested to form a Co-ordination Committee with the local villagers, company officers, MPCB officers and Government officers, it is very useful due to which credibility come to the industry also. He stated that finally he recommend the MoEF to give unconditional permission to M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. **Dr. Ghogare** stated that as suggested by Shri Reddy, they will carry out off-site Rain Water Harvesting and will enhance the plantation. He also stated that the other points are good and are already incorporated in the EIA report upto **80%** and remaining suggestions will be incorporated in the final EIA report.
8. **Shri Nath M. Reddy**, a resident of nearby village Anjanpur, Tq. Kallam, Dist: Osmanabad asked whether there will be any problem of noise pollution due to the said project, upon which **Dr. Ghogare** stated that no more problem causes due to distillery plant, but the noise pollution causes more in sugar factory for which they have already provided the control measures, however, they have carried out

insulation, isolation and separation in the distillery plant and the noise level monitored within 10 mtr. of the plant observed is below 50 dB(A), which is as per the prescribed norms.

9. **One of the public participants**, asked that how many days the project will be operated after its commissioning, upon which **Dr. Ghogare** stated that sugar factory is operated for 6 months, the existing distillery plant is operated for 8 to 9 months, i.e. 270 days due to composting, but when the 60 KLPD capacity of incineration project of distillery will be established, it will be operated for 330 days every year.
  
10. **Shri H. Madhubabu**, Environmental Volunteer stated that he has already sent a letter regarding his suggestions for the Project Proponent regarding the public hearing of the proposed 30 to 60 KLPD project of distillery and requested to explain his suggestions. He stated that he is supporting the said project. **Dr. Ghogare** stated that the suggestions given by Shri H. Madhubabu like rain water harvesting, employment will be incorporated in the EIA report and the activities, like health check up, etc. will be continued under the CSR. **Shri B. B. Thombare**, the Chairman of the proposed expansion project stated that the letter of Shri H. Madhubabu sent to MPCB is also received to him in which 3 – points are very good. He stated that as a rain water harvesting, they have taken in hand a programme of collecting 100% rain water on 125 acres of land for which they have provided area-wise pits. He stated that they have are having the existing trees of about 25 to 30%, out of which about 40% trees are dried due to severe drought during the last three years, hence, they have taken in hand a programme to plant the trees against the dried trees, to plant the trees on 12 acres area of their press mud yard as reported by their Consultant and to plant about 25000 trees in the open space of 125 acres of land in this year and total activity is completed for storage of 100% of rain water. He further stated that as a Social Responsibility, 22 villages in Kallam Tehsil had taken part in the Water Cup Competition organized by the Indian Film Actor, Amir Khan, in which they have accepted the work of plantation of 1000 trees per village by providing 2 plants with 2 pits per family and they have planned to plant about 12000 trees in those villages.

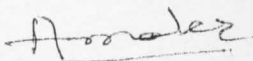
**Shri V.P. Shelke**, the Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur & Convener of the Public Hearing Panel again requested the public participants that still if anybody is having any question, same may be asked, otherwise the programme will be concluded.

After observing that nobody is having any question remained to be asked, **Shri Rajendra Khandare**, the Additional District Magistrate, Osmanabad & Chairman of Public Hearing Panel stated that today, the Environmental Public Hearing in respect of M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Sainagar, Ranjani, Tq. Kallam, Dist: Osmanabad for their proposed Expansion of Molasses Based Distillery Project from 30 KLPD to 60 KLPD capacity is being conducted. The Environmental Consultant, M/s. Equinox Environments (India) Pvt. Ltd. has given good presentation regarding the said project in which the Consultant has briefed about the purpose of said project, production to be produced, required raw material, processing, final production and

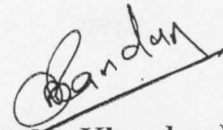
simultaneously impact on the surrounding environment and measures to be taken to minimize the same and to maintain the biodiversity, etc. in the area. He stated that the Chairman of the project briefed about the activities taken already and to be taken hereafter/in future. The questions raised by the public participants are replied very well by the Project Consultant and Chairman of the project. He further stated that he has received some suggestions from Shri Sunanda Reddy and Shri H. Madhubabu, out of which most of the suggestions are taken into consideration and the Chairman of the project and Project Consultant have briefed about those suggestions which are to be taken into considered. He stated that it is well known to all of us that if any project is established, it develops the area through generation of basic needs, increase in per head income, employment generates and due to sugar factory and allied industries also, the area develops, increase the per head income and get good rates to the sugarcane, but while performing all these activities, the workers and their families and alternatively/ultimately to get income through cash crop to the farmers, their improving lifestyle is the sign of progress in actual means. He further stated that whatever the questions asked during the course of public hearing are considered, suggestions to be considered will also be taken into consideration. He stated that Shri Shelke has also done good introduction of the project and whatever the issues, questions raised during the public hearing will be considered and the proposal will be finalized and then, with a vote of thanks to the public participants, he invited Shri Shelke to conclude the Public Hearing.

Thereafter, **Shri V.P. Shelke**, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur & Convener of Public Hearing Panel stated that the Technical Consultant of the project has given good technical presentation about the proposed expansion of distillery project, which has seen by all those are present, the questions raised are replied by the Project Proponent and Project Consultant and then he concluded the Environmental Public Hearing of proposed expansion of distillery project of M/s. Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd. with a vote of thanks to all the public participants.

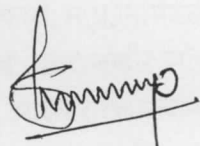
Lastly, the Public Hearing ended with a vote of thanks to the **Chair**.



**(A. D. Mohekar)**  
Member of the Public Hearing Committee  
and  
Regional Officer, MPCB, Aurangabad



**(Rajendra Khandare)**  
Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee  
and  
Additional District Magistrate, Osmanabad



**(V. P. Shelke)**  
Convener of the Public Hearing Committee  
and  
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Latur

