

**The minutes of Public Hearing in respect of proposed Marki-Zari-Jamani-Adkoli  
opencast coal mining project (1.0 Million Ton / Year in 459.68 Ha) of  
M/s Maharashtra State Mining Corporation Ltd. (MSMCL) at Tal. Zarijamni,  
Dist. Yavatmal conducted on 08/01/2013, 04.00 pm at  
Tahsil Office, Zarijamni, Tal. Zarijamni, Dist. Yavatmal**

---

The Environmental Public Hearing in respect of proposed Marki-Zari-Jamani-Adkoli opencast coal mining project (1.0 MTPA in 459.68 Ha) of M/s Maharashtra State Mining Corporation Ltd. (MSMCL) at Tal. Zarijamni, Dist. Yavatmal having production capacity of 1.0 Million Ton / Year and mine lease area of 459.68 Ha was held on 08/01/2013, 4.00 pm at Tahsil Office, Zarijamni, Tal. Zarijamni, Dist. Yavatmal. The public hearing was conducted under the Chairmanship of **Shri Rajendra Deshmukh**, Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal.

**Shri S. D. Patil**, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB Chandrapur was the Convener of the Public Hearing. **Shri N. G. Nihul**, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Chandrapur was the Member of Public Hearing Panel, **Shri M. P. Barhanpurkar**, District Mining Officer, Yavatmal, **Shri. L. S. Varhade**, SDO, Wani and **Shri. Kumare**, Tahsildar, Zari Jamni were also present during the public hearing. The Public Hearing started on 04.00 pm with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel.

First of all, the Convener welcomed to all of present for the Public Hearing. He told that, the Public Hearing is being conducted as per the provisions of EIA Notification dtd. 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and amended Notification dtd. 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi. He told that the project proponent received TOR (Terms of Reference) for this project from Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi on 23/03/2012. Project Proponent submitted their application to the Board on 26/07/2012 requesting for conducting the public hearing. Accordingly, the Board had issued public notice on 05/09/2012 in Daily Lokmat (Marathi) and Daily Hitwada (English) stating date, venue and time of public hearing. The public hearing was scheduled on 10/10/2012, 03.00 PM at Tahsil Office, Zarijamni, Dist. Yavatmal. The said public hearing was postponed due to some unavoidable reason at that time as per District Collector, Yavatmal letter no. 937/2012 dated 06/10/2012. The notice about postponement of public hearing was published in Marathi Daily Lokmat and English Daily Hitwada on 08/10/2012. Afterwards the public hearing is scheduled on 08/01/2013 and the public notice in this behalf was published on 03/12/2012 in Daily Lokmat (Marathi) and Daily Hitwada (English) stating date, venue and time of public hearing.

The copies of draft EIA/EMP and Executive Summaries in English and Marathi were made available vide letter no. 4248/2012 dated 05/09/2012 to the offices of District Collector, Yavatmal, District Industries Centre, Yavatmal, Zilha Parishad, Yavatmal, M. P. C. Board (HQ), Mumbai, Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, M. P. C. Board, Chandrapur, Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai, Tahsil Office, Zarijamni and concerned Grampanchayat Adkoli, Tal. Zarijamni, Dist. Yavatmal for the knowledge of concerned. While issuing notice of postponement, it was requested to above offices for making available the documents submitted by project proponent for the concerned to study till the date of Public

Hearing. Also, through this notice it was requested to file their objections/suggestions within 30 days from the date of public notice to the Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur. The Member Secretary, M. P. C. Board, Mumbai has issued the panel order no. E-140 of 2012, dated 28/12/2012 for the Public Hearing.

Convener of the Public Hearing further informed to the participants that, **one written representation was received regarding public hearing** to be conducted and the same was made available to the Project Proponent. He further appealed to the participants that, they can file their written objections/representations during Public Hearing and they could express their views orally after the power point presentation that will be given by the project proponent. He further clarified to the participants that the Public Hearing panel is not here to accord/recommend Environmental Clearance to the project, but for recording the objections/suggestions of the participants, which will be video graphed and will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi through Head Office, of M. P. C. Board along with minutes of public hearing for further necessary action. **During public hearing two written representations were submitted by the people.** The Details are given below. The three written representations, one received earlier and two received during public hearing are enclosed herewith.

- 1) Shri Hansraj Ahir, Member of Parliament, Chandrapur
- 2) Villagers of Adkoli, Pavnar & Ganeshpur (kh), Tal. Zarijamni, Dist. Yavatmal
- 3) Shri Bandu Alias Mahadev Damu Parkhi, Tal. Zarijamni, Dist. Yavatmal

The convener, with the permission of Chairman, then requested the project proponent to give information about their project through power point presentation in local language.

**Shri. Shrikant Vyavhare (Anacon Consultacy)** on behalf of Project Proponent gave the information about the project in local language (Marathi) through presentation on the proposed project of Marki-Zari-Jamani-Adkoli opencast coal mining joint venture project of M/s Maharashtra State Mining Corporation Ltd. (MSMCL).

Thereafter, **Shri A. N. Katole** (Sub Regional Officer, Regional Office, MPCB, Chandrapur) appealed people to express their queries, objections, suggestions or comments regarding the proposed project.

The details of the questions raised by the people during the public hearing and the replies given by project proponent are given below.

1] **Dr. Ramzan Virani (Assistant Professor in Zoology, Shivraji College, Pandharkawda, Dist. Yavatmal)** enquired about the parameters used for the study of flora and fauna and fertile soil management plan. He further asked about the lean period water flow study of Nalla flowing through the region. He demanded to explain in detail about the proper arrangement for water and air pollution control and which models of Sewage Treatment Plant and Effluent Treatment Plant will be used for the treatment of sewage and effluent. He said that it is mentioned in EIA report that people get migrated from this region for employment and asked that which study is conducted for this factor. He further said that mine life is predicted as 15 years in EIA report and asked about the employment mitigation of mine staff and workers after the mine closure. He said that dense forest is present near the project area and claimed that tigers were observed in forest near Tipeswar village. He

alleged that mine will hamper the wildlife and demanded that the region should be declared as community reserve.

**2] Shri Narayan Gode (Resident of Kosara)** said that mines are in operation since last 50-60 years in nearby region and the situation is worse in the region due to these mines. Overburden dumps get collapsed into farms/roads and nearby farmers/villagers get affected. Mining goes deeper up to 400 to 500 feet and groundwater level is declined. Farmers are not getting water for irrigation. He said that farmers whose land is acquired will get compensation but other farmers will suffer from the adverse effects of mining. He said that although project proponent agreed to follow rules for coal transportation but afterwards trucks carrying coal are never covered properly and creates air pollution which damages roadside crops. He demanded for compensation for such crop damage. He enquired about the employment mitigation of mine staff and workers after the mine closure after predicted life of mine i. e. 15 years. If mine authorities violate the rules strict action should be implemented against mine to achieve minimum environmental degradation. He expressed his support to the mine and said that mine will create employment for the people however farmers' benefit should be considered.

**3] Shri Chandrakant Dashrath Ghugul (Sarpanch, Lahan Pandharkawda)** said that his village is at 3 km from proposed project and enquired about the plans for benefit of farmers whose land is not acquired. He further asked about the rate of land to be acquired for the project and added that MSMCL is a government organization and the rate given by Western Coalfield Ltd. i. e. ₹ 6 Lakhs for barren land, ₹ 8 Lakhs for non-irrigated (dry) land and ₹ 10 Lakhs for irrigated land will be given or market rate will be given for proposed project or what. He demanded that equal rate should be given for all types of land. Further he enquired about the nature and specification of employment which will be offered to nominees of affected farmers and said that whether the employment offered will be on daily wages basis / minimum wages basis or contractual basis.

He further said that issue of pollution is also important and alleged that concerned agencies are not using their powers to curb it. Transportation is uncontrolled which leads to accidents. Trucks are 15 to 20 years old and many times trucks are overloaded and also not covered.

**4] Shri Rahul Dongarwar (Teacher)** said that there are no medical facilities in the region and hence people dies due to curable diseases like malaria. He enquired that Project Proponent will provide proper health facilities in the villages or what. He further asked about the rate of land to be acquired for the proposed project and employment to the nominees of the affected farmers.

**5] Shri Vasudev Laxman Vidhate (Resident of Marki)** claimed that the temperature of the region will increase drastically due to coming power plants in the region. People in this area will die due to high temperature caused by the proposed projects. There are 145 power plants proposed in near future in Vidarbha region. In Zari region one 75 MW power plant of M/s Reliance Industries is proposed, public hearing for which is already conducted. There is Asia's biggest Cement Plant of M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. in Mukutban which is 5 km away from the proposed project. Two coalmines of M/s Virangana Ltd. and B. S. Ispat Ltd. are in operations which are located within 10 km of proposed project. He alleged that names of these existing projects are not mentioned in the EIA report which is located within 10 km

periphery. He further told to Shri Chandrakant Ghugul, Sarpanch, Lahan Pandharkawda that one of these projects is within 3 Km from your village. There are few other projects also proposed in near future. They are also not mentioned in the report. There are many cotton ginning and pressing industries in operation in Zari region. However, it is mentioned in the report that there is no industrial establishment within 10 km periphery.

He further said that people of this region are already suffering due to pollution from existing industries. People own the land and also minerals present in the land. Hence they should get the money equal to price of the minerals present in their land.

He further said that according to EIA notification 2006 it is mandatory for State Pollution Control Board to conduct the public hearing within 45 days from the receipt of application from project proponent. However, this period of 45 days is already completed. The public hearing for this project was earlier scheduled on 10/10/2012 but was postponed due to some unavoidable reason. He asked about the reason for postponement of earlier public hearing and added that there was no natural calamity like earthquake, flood etc. and all Government offices were open on that date then why the public hearing was postponed.

He alleged that State Pollution Control Board has no right to conduct this public hearing as stipulated period of 45 days is already over. It was stated at the beginning that this public hearing is being conducted as per the EIA notification 2006 and in the same notification this period of 45 days is mentioned. This is the violation of EIA notification hence this public hearing should be stopped now and Ministry of Environment and Forest should appoint a new agency for conducting this public hearing as per the provision of EIA Notification 2006.

He further stated that it was published in the newspaper that M/s Sunil Hi-Tech has some relation with this project and news published in newspaper can't be untrue. He demanded for clarification from project proponent on this issue.

**Chairman Shri. Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that Project Proponent will reply on the issues raised by people. He asked MSMCL authorities to clarify about M/s Sunil Hi-Tech.

**Shri Tembhare (General Manager, MSMCL)** replied that that Adkoli coal block was allotted to MSMCL by Coal Ministry and MSMCL was not having enough funds to start the project. Hence MSMCL made legal agreement with M/s Sunil Hi-tech and M/s Sunil Hi-Tech holds 49 % share in the project. This project is the joint venture and it is mentioned in the EIA report that it is a joint venture.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** alleged that this thing was kept hidden from the people. Also it is not mentioned in EIA report. This is very important thing and must be included in the EIA report. This should be included in EIA report and then public hearing should be conducted. He demanded to stop the public hearing.

**Shri. N. G. Nihul** (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) stated that the report is draft EIA report and after public hearing final EIA report is to be prepared by Project Proponent considering peoples' views expressed during public hearing for submitting it to the Expert Appraisal Committee.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** said that number of public hearings was conducted in this region but people didn't get to see final EIA report of any project after completion of public hearing.

**Shri. N. G. Nihul** said that it is mentioned in EIA report that project is a joint venture. However, name of M/s Sunil Hi-tech is not mentioned, which could be mentioned.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** alleged that this thing is totally wrong and unbearable. If this is not stopped then people will not have faith in the administration. He demanded that Chairman should stop the public hearing and give suitable instructions to State Pollution Control Board for further action.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that Project Proponent will reply on the all issues raised by people.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** stated that this all process is illegal and why should people participate in such illegal work. He added that Administration is forcing people to participate in such illegal act.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that other peoples' views should also be recorded and Chairman of Public Hearing doesn't have the right to decide validity of EIA report. Let these all issues to go in front of Expert Appraisal Committee.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** asked that whether Chairman has the right to postpone the public hearing as earlier scheduled public hearing was postponed.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that earlier public hearing was postponed by District Magistrate by considering law & order situation at that time. Your all views and objections will be highlighted in the minutes. The name of associate company i. e. M/s Sunil Hi-Tech and names of existing industries within 10 km from the proposed project are not mentioned in the report. All these issues will be highlighted in the minutes. Although MSMCL is a Government organization, still all these issues should go in front of Expert Appraisal Committee. He further added that he too just come to know that MSMCL had 51 % share in this project. All these objections should be highlighted in the minutes. If the EIA report is incomplete or wrong, then the project proponent will not get the clearance. He has to correct the mistakes in this EIA report first.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** said that during public hearing of earlier projects such assurances were given and didn't fulfilled and those projects got the permission from concerned department.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that all views and objections will be highlighted and recording of the public hearing is also sent to the Ministry. Let this all objections to go in front of Expert Appraisal Committee. If this hearing is stopped then these issues will not go in front of them and permission can be granted to the project by considering that there are no any issues. He appealed people to express all issues related with the project so that it can be recorded and sent to the Ministry.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** further stated that the railway route shown in the map of project is incomplete. It is shows only up to Mukutban and not beyond that. But in fact railway line goes beyond Mukutban also.

**Shri Shrikant Vyavhare (Anacon Consultancy)** stated that it is the mistake of Draftsman.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** further objected on the content published in EIA report on page C3-66, point no. 3.8, paragraph 3, 4 & 5 under title socio-economic aspects. He said that this

content is totally false. It is mentioned that people of this region migrate to nearby districts for employment. However, not a single family is migrated from this region for employment. It is mentioned that people are unemployed, which is also not true.

**Shari Shrikant Vyavhare (Anacon Consultancy)** replied that socio-economic survey was conducted with the help of Vikalp NGO which is mentioned in the EIA report.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** asked that responsibility of this report is with Vikalp NGO or with Anacon Consultancy.

**Shri Tembhare (General Manager, MSMCL)** replied that the socio-economic survey was conducted with the help of Vikalp NGO. However, the responsibility lies with Anacon Consultancy.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** alleged that the socio-economic data is far from reality and it seems that the report is prepared in office at Nagpur without conducting proper field study. If the socio-economic data is false then how the socio-economic development will take place due to this project. These mistakes in the EIA report is unbearable which makes the report invalid. Hence this public hearing should be stopped and after submission of new corrected EIA report, public hearing should be conducted.

**6] Shri Chandrakant Dashrath Ghugul (Sarpanch, Lahan Pandharkawda)** demanded that views of local villagers should be considered first. He added that Adkoli, Pavnar and Ganeshpur (Kd.) villages are included in the proposed project. 100 % land of Pavnar village is to be acquired. Total land is 203 Ha, out of which 70 Ha is forest land. If total land of Pavnar village is proposed to acquire then rehabilitation of the village will be done or not. Nominees of affected farmers will get employment or not. Land of Adkoli village will also be acquired. Maximum villagers of Adkoli village are Adivasi. This village should also be rehabilitated. This issue is most important.

He further enquired about the nature and specification of employments and demanded for permanent jobs to the nominees of affected farmers.

**7] Shri Ashok Pandhare (Sarpanch, Adkoli Grampanchayat)** said that there are few issues of Adkoli, Pavnar, Ganeshpur (Kd.) villagers which should be solved. 50 % agricultural land of Adkoli and Pavnar villages is to be acquired and hence both the villages should be rehabilitated. Nominees of affected farmers should get permanent employment in the project.

**8] Shri Aashish Fulsunge (Zilha Parishad Member)** said that issues of Adkoli and Pavnar villages are important. Rate of land is also a major issue which should be explained in front of the people.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that if rehabilitation is required, first 100 % rehabilitation will be done and then the project will start. The place for rehabilitation will be finalized after discussion with villagers. If rehabilitation is needed, Project Proponent has to do it as per the rules of Government.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** further stated that issue of employment is very important. It was explained by project proponent that employment will be given as per educational qualification, in such situation illiterate people will not get job in the project. Nature and specifications of jobs i. e. salary etc. should be explained in front of people. Existing mines of

Western Coalfield Ltd. give job to affected persons in underground mines. Other private mines like M/s Virangana Steel Ltd. also committed to give employment to locals but didn't fulfill the commitments.

He further said that it was explained earlier that rate of ₹ 6 Lakhs to barren land, ₹ 8 Lakhs for dry land and ₹ 10 Lakhs for irrigated land will be given for this project. He added that coal stock is present under all types of land then why different rate is proposed for such land. ₹ 1 to 1 ½ Lakhs is required to convert dry land into irrigated one. He alleged that in this way, project proponent is cheating villagers.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** asked that whether Shri Fulsunge is suggesting that rate should be equal for all type of land.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** said that rate of all type of land should be given as ₹ 15 Lakhs per acre and this should be declared in front of people in this public hearing. Employment to the affected farmers is also an important factor. He demanded clarification from Project Proponent regarding equal rate for all type of land, employment to affected people and employment to landless villagers.

He further stated that farmers whose land is not acquired will suffer in future due to mine. Their crops will be damaged due to coal dust. Presently also cotton crop is damaged due to coal dust of existing mines and farmers are not getting proper rate for their cotton. He asked that whether Government doesn't have funds because 49 % share is given to private company for this project. He again repeated his demand to clarify the issue of equal rate for all type of land and provision of minimum 400 employments.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** enquired that MSMCL authorities present for this public hearing has the authority to clarify this issue or what. He said that this is the first stage of this project.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** said that once the public hearing is completed then all is over. This is the past experience of people of this region. One earlier public hearing of M/s Ghonsa opencast mine of Western Coalfield Ltd. was conducted and under the chairmanship of Shri Deshmukh. In the said public hearing, armed police force was deployed on large scale and people couldn't express their views without fear due to it.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that this time police force is limited and it is essential as public hearing is a Government work. Government officers represent people in the public hearings.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** stated that Government officers don't need to worry because villagers will not threat them. He demanded that public hearing should be conducted in the village where project is located because ladies in the villages couldn't come for the public hearing. Farmers' children will suffer due to the proposed mine because once their land is acquired their future will be in dark.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** instructed project proponent to reply on the issues raised by people so far.

**Shri Tembhare (General Manager, MSMCL)** replied on the issues raised by people. He said that employment will be provided to the nominees of affected farmers according to educational qualification. Uneducated people will have to work as labours and the

employment will be provided after the mine starts. There are about 576 nos. of employments in the project. Out of total land required for the project, 356 Ha land is agricultural land.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** asked that proposed project will end after 15 years, what is the plan of employment shifting / mitigation thereafter.

**Shri Tembhare** replied that after completion of this project employees will be shifted to another projects of MSMCL running at other places. There are also few proposed projects of MSMCL.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** stated that there is no project of MSMCL running in Maharashtra.

**Shri Tembhare** replied that there are 11 projects of MSMCL running in Maharashtra.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** asked that if vacancy is not available at running projects then how this issue will be handled.

**Shri Tembhare** replied that vacancies are available and in future more employments will be created.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that this is a Government project and if vacancy is not available even then Government will pay the employees.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** enquired that whether employment will be given on behalf of MSMCL or M/s Sunil Hi-Tech.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that MSMCL is a Government organization and employment will be given on behalf of MSMCL.

**Shri Tembhare** stated that MSMCL has the ownership of the project as 51 % share is with MSMCL.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** further asked that whether project proponent is ready to have such agreement with villagers that employment will be given on behalf of MSMCL and not of M/s Sunil Hi-Tech.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that project proponent is ready to have such agreement because this is a Government owned project. M/s Sunil Hi-Tech is only providing funds to the project.

**Shri Chandrakant Ghugul** asked that whether employment will be contractual or what? Skilled and unskilled categorization is there or what? Also what are the plans for landless farm-workers?

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that project proponent already clarified that employment will be provided on the basis of educational qualification.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** stated that Adkoli village comes under schedule 5 and hence Gramsabha has the right to take decision about the proposed mine. Even President of India do not have right to change the decision of Gramsabha. He demanded that villagers and Adivasi people should get their rights. Adivasi people are landless and their livelihood is dependent on nearby reserved forest. Adkoli village is under Schedule 5, it means that livelihood of villagers of Adkoli is dependent on reserved forest. This project is acquiring their land and compensatory forestation will be carried out on 210 Ha of land. MSMCL has



not yet taken the land for compensatory afforestation. It means that it will take a long period to develop such forest on another piece of land. Then how the resettlement of Adivasi of Adkoli village will be done now. He invited Shri. Ajay Raju from Tata Institute of Social Sciences to explain more about Schedule 5.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** instructed Shri Vidhate to complete his say first.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** further said that rights of Adivasi under Schedule 5 should be preserved. However, in this regard there is nothing mentioned in the EIA report. He once again alleged that content given in socio-economic report is totally false. He demanded that project proponent should read the said content in Marathi in front of people. He said that this content will be submitted to Ministry at Delhi and decision will be taken there, hence people should know it.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that if content is false then it should be changed. He asked Shri Vidhate to tell what is written in the Report.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** said that it is mentioned in the report that people of this region are beggars. He further said that people of this region are farmers and they earn by working in the farms and they are not beggars.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** read the contents in the EIA report and said that it is written that people get migrated to other region for employment and issue of migration is present in this region and apprised Shri Vidhate that there is nothing in those paragraphs as he told.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** said that no one migrated from here to another region for employment. On the other hand people come here for employment.

**Shri Shrikant Vyavhare** (Anacon Consultancy) replied that the socio-economic study was conducted with the help of VIKALP NGO and the details in this regard will be provided, if required.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** stated that it is also mentioned in the report that Bajra is planted in this region by farmers. However, no farmer cultivates bajra in this region. What is the base for this data?

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** instructed MSMCL authorities to seek details in this regard from Anacon Consultancy and prepare revised report.

**Shri N. G. Nihul** (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) stated that this is draft EIA report and project proponent has to study the issues raised during the public hearing and incorporate it in the final EIA report. He added that Hon'ble Chairman already instructed project proponent to make available copy of final EIA report to people also.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** said that it is mentioned that baseline data is taken in summer and TOR is granted on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 then from where this data is generated. Census of 2001 is considered for the study. However, 2011 census is completed which should be considered.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that 2011 census is not yet published.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** said that there is a lake near Pavnar village, water from which is utilized for agriculture of Pavnar and nearby villages. Similarly Small Irrigation Project and

Adivasi Boarding School is present in the region. All these factors are not mentioned in the report. There is no Government permission enclosed in the mining plan regarding use of water. Permission of Forest Department is also not enclosed. Only a normal letter is enclosed and same is given as Annexure-10 in the EIA report. List of survey nos. of lease area are not given. There are many such lacunas in the report. He added that local people are demanding to give them opportunity first to express their issues.

**Shri N. G. Nihul (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur)** requested Shri Vidhate to raise his all issues otherwise you will say that my all issues are not recorded. Thus, complete your say first.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** further stated that details of land acquisition are not mentioned in the report.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that land will be acquired only after consent of landowner.

**Shri Tembhare (MSMCL)** stated that land details i. e. 7/12 extracts are not mentioned in the EIA report. The same will be provided at the time of land purchasing.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** asked that land of which farmers will be acquired. He demanded to explain names of such farmers. He added that villagers present for the hearing also want to know this. He demanded to explain about rate of land and details of employment.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that farmers own the land and they can demand the rate for their land.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** asked that if farmers demand ₹ 15 Lakh per acre, will project proponent give this rate?

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that farmers can demand the rate they want for their land. If they don't agree on this issue the project will not initiate.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** said that there is no information about farmers in this bulky EIA report. This is environmental public hearing. In this regard coal transportation causes air pollution on large scale due to overloading. Road is meant for 16 Ton trucks however 35 ton trucks runs on the road. What action State Pollution Control Board had taken on this issue?

**Shri N. G. Nihul (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur)** clarified that the issue of overloading is pertaining to R.T.O. and not with MPCB. However, if there is any specific complaint within the purview of the Board then action can be taken.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** asked about the plantation carried out by existing coal mines of M/s Virangana Steels Ltd. and M/s B S Ispat Ltd. in the region.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that there is no relation of existing mines with this project. Still people can submit their complaints, if any, regarding existing mines.

**Shri N. G. Nihul** stated that the public hearing committee have no powers to accord Environmental Clearance to the project.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** stated that list of Survey nos. of land to be acquired for the project should be included in EIA report and rate of land should be 12 Lakhs / 15 Lakhs. Then farmers will give their land to the project. Four villages are included in the project but whole

region will be affected due to pollution. Already there is pollution due to mining and transportation. What action is taken to control the pollution in Mukutban region should be explained. He demanded to cancel the public hearing.

**9] Shri Prabhakar Aatram (Deputy Sarpanch, Parsoda Grampanchayat)** demanded for cancellation of public hearing and said that all villagers are Adivasi. Project Proponent is cheating the villagers. List of survey nos. should be published. He again demanded for cancellation of public hearing.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** once again demanded for cancellation of public hearing and for conducting the fresh public hearing at project site in village in the morning time. He further demanded to give rate of land as 15 Lakhs per acre.

**10] Shri Ravindra Sudhakar Pullewar (Resident of Ruikot)** said that most of the population of the region is Adivasi and demanded for equal rate i. e. ₹ 20 Lakhs per acre for class-1 and class-2 type of land. Coal excavated from 1 acre of land is equal to 20 to 25 Crores then what is the problem in giving the rate of ₹ 20 Lakhs per acre. He demanded for rehabilitation of village near highway road and proper arrangement of water supply and electricity should be provided after rehabilitation. He further demanded for compensation of 5 Lakhs per Acre in lieu of employment and added that agents should not be involved in the process of land acquisition.

**11] Shri Rahul Saraf (Resident of Chandrapur)** introduced himself as representative of Hon'ble MP Shri Hansraj Ahir and said that the project is mentioned as 'Joint Venture' in the EIA report but name of another partner company is not mentioned. Earlier public hearings of Western Coalfield Ltd. were cancelled due to non-fulfillment of commitments. It means that Chairman of the Public Hearing had the authority to cancel the public hearing at that time then why not now. He demanded to cancel the public hearing on the same ground. Is it necessary to create Law & Order problems for cancellation of Public Hearing?

He further said that MSMCL being a State Government organization has responsibility of fulfill the commitments. As the project is joint venture but the hand purpose should not be changed in future. This has happened in the past with one of the existing coal mine namely M/s Virangana Steels Ltd. of this region. He demanded to explain all points in partnership deed made between MSMCL and M/s Sunil Hi-Tech.

He further stated that MSMCL authorities declared that the land will be directly purchased from farmers and suggested that meeting should be conducted with villagers in the presence of District Collector and the final decision in this regard should be made. He demanded for cancellation of public hearing because of incorrect data in EIA report and said that farmers are equivalent to Project Proponent because they are owner of land. He further demanded for compensation of ₹ 5 Lakhs per acre in lieu of employment and said that agents shouldn't be involved in the land acquisition process.

He said that it is the provision under law that 100 % rehabilitation should be done before the project starts and if Forest Committee is present in the village then forest land couldn't be acquired without signatures of 50 % of the villagers. He objected that environmental study was carried out only in summer, while in monsoon the environmental condition is different.

He further alleged that in EIA report it is mentioned that river water is not available for agriculture in the region, which is not true. There is no information regarding water

pollution and noise pollution in the report. He demanded for cancellation of public hearing and fresh public hearing should be conducted after submission of revised report by project proponent.

**12] Shri Vijay Anandrao Pidurkar (Resident of Sawangi)** said that the data given in EIA report and presentation is totally false and demanded for cancellation of public hearing. He said that revised report should be submitted and facts regarding partnership between MSMCL and M/s Sunil Hi-tech should be explained in front of the people.

**13] Shri Ajay Raju** (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur, Dist. Usmanabad, Maharashtra) asked about the measures taken for water pollution control and said that what is the guarantee that mine authorities will not discharge the effluent into river? He questioned about authenticity of satellite image and said that ground reality can't be understood by satellite image. He alleged that map given in the report is also incorrect. Mine life is only 15 years. He demanded for implementation of all rules regarding Schedule-5 for Adivasi land.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** said that replies given by Project Proponent are not satisfactory and acceptable and in view of violation of EIA notification and incorrect EIA report this public hearing is illegal. Project Proponent hides many things from people and Government and replies given by him are not satisfactory. He appealed to Chairman for cancellation of Public hearing and said that if this hearing is not cancelled it will be injustice with the people.

**Shri Rahul Saraf** gave reference of news published in 'Time of India' regarding Tata Nano Project in Sanand district of Gujarat. He said that people get Crores of rupees in said project as compensation for their land.

**Shri Tembhare (General Manager, MSMCL)** said that land will not be acquired but it will be purchased. Meeting will be conducted in this regard with villagers in the presence of District Collector. He said that after commissioning of mine overburden dumping will be made as per the norms of DGMS. Irrigated agriculture is shown in the report but this irrigation is not from river but from bore-well as River is not in existence in the vicinity. He said that equal rate will be given to class-1 and class-2 land. Employment will be provided as per educational qualification and uneducated people will be given post of Labour. He informed that land of total 130 farmers will be required for this project. All compensation will be given according to rules.

**Shri Rahul Saraf** asked about the land acquisition policy of MSMCL as like Coal India Ltd. is having its own policy for land acquisition.

**Shri Tembhare** (General Manager, MSMCL) replied that rules of Maharashtra Government in this regard will be followed. He further said that garland drains will be made on overburden dumps for rainwater flow. Primary and secondary data of flora and fauna is taken from forest department and also from local people. Existence of leopard was observed and not Tiger in the region.

**Dr. Ramzan Virani** said that existence of tiger is also observed in the region.

**Shri Shrikant Vyavhare (Anacon)** said that such data was not received from forest department and also pugmarks were not observed in the forest.

**Dr. Ramzan Virani** said that cattle kill by tiger happened in the region and it was proved also.

**Shri Tembhare (MSMCL)** said that if this region is tiger reserve then the project will not initiate. He further said that mining closure plan is approved by Ministry of Coal. After completion of this project employees will be provided employment at another project of MSMCL. There will be no water scarcity in nearby villages.

He informed that lean period water flow study was not carried out because it is not mentioned in the TOR and same will be carried out after the mine starts.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** stated that there is a water body within 10 km radius but it was not mentioned in the EIA report. There is lake within 500 meter from mining lease boundary.

**Shri Tembhare (MSMCL)** said that plantation will be carried out for controlling air pollution. Plant species to be planted will be decided in accordance with forest department. Closed type of trucks will be used for coal transportation to avoid air pollution during transportation. Agents will not be involved in the process of land acquisition and amount of compensation will be paid by cheques. Facilities like roads, water supply, hospital, ambulance etc. will be provided to villagers.

Owing to the disturbances being created by some participants **Shri N. G. Nihul** (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) requested people to listen to the replies given by representative of Project Proponent. Owing to this request, some of the participants who ask for cancellation of the Public Hearing observe silence.

Then **Shri Tembhare (MSMCL)** continued. He informed that one coal block of MSMCL was cancelled because it is near to Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and work of other three coal blocks was in progress.

**Shri Aashish Fulsunge** interrupted and told that Project Proponent have given all replies still I demand for cancellation of public hearing.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** stated that he can't take one sided decision. Let complete the reply of representative of Project Proponent.

**Shri N. G. Nihul** (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) said that all objections raised by people are recorded and will be submitted to the Ministry and if expert appraisal committee is not satisfied with the revised EIA Report the project proponent will not get environmental clearance.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** requested to the participants to keep silence. He further stated that people have expressed their views and objections in the public hearing. Many lacunas are observed in the presentation and EIA report of the project. Issues raised by people and replies given by project proponent are recorded.

He said that representation of Hon'ble MP Shri Hansraj Ahir is also received in which issues related with benefit of villagers are alluded. The issues mentioned in the representation are rehabilitation of Pavnar Village, equal rate for all type of land, one employment per one acre of land, permanent employment up to 60 years of age to affected farmers, skilled and unskilled jobs – training to unskilled people, compensation of ₹ 3 Lakhs per acre in lieu of employment, employment to landless farm-workers, formation of village level committee for control of pollution, provision of health facility for villagers and any NOC of Grampanchayat shouldn't be considered valid without Gramsabha resolution. He further

said that Shri Bandu Manadev Parkhi submitted written representation in which he demanded for cancellation of the project. These representations will be submitted to the Ministry for their consideration.

He commented that it is draft EIA report and it is compulsory for MSMCL to and revise the report, the copy of which should be sent to Grampanchayat. Thereafter villagers can submit their say on revised report by post also to the concerned regulatory authority.

**Shri Vasudev Vidhate** objected that postal correspondence will not be entertained once the public hearing is conducted. He further objected that this hearing is illegal as stipulated period of 45 days as per the provisions of EIA notification is already over and again demanded for cancellation of public hearing.

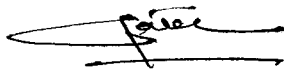
**Shri N. G. Nihul** (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) stated that the said clause of 45 days period is made for the convenience of Project Proponent only. He clarified that Public Hearing committee don't have authority to decide the correctness of EIA report. He requested Shri Vidhate not to create unrest in the participants of public hearing and requested participants to maintain silence.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that Project Proponent will not get clearance until they fulfill all issues raised during public hearing.

Thereafter nobody came forward for raising any issues regarding the project. Then **Shri N. G. Nihul** (Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur) stated that views of participants are recorded and project proponent has to revise the draft EIA Report. Public Hearing Committee doesn't give clearance to the project. Even the committee doesn't have authority to decide correctness of EIA report. Even after this Hon'ble Chairman will take decision. He then requested Chairman to have his concluding remarks.

**Chairman Shri Rajendra Deshmukh** said that proposed project is a 'Joint Venture' but name and details regarding Partnership Company i. e. M/s Sunil Hi-Tech is not mentioned in the EIA report. MSMCL authorities agreed that M/s Sunil Hi-Tech have 49 % share in the project. Mistakes observed in the map given in the report and MSMCL authorities agreed that it is mistake of map tracer. Data on wildlife is also not observed errorless. He instructed MSMCL authorities to revise the EIA report by correcting all mistakes.

He further stated that considering acute feelings of the participants, I stop this public hearing here. Hearing for this project will be held again.




**(S. D. Patil)**

Convener of Public Hearing &  
Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Chandrapur



**(N. G. Nihul)**

Member of Public Hearing  
Panel & Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Chandrapur



**(Rajendra Deshmukh)**

Chairman of  
Public Hearing Panel &  
Additional District  
Magistrate, Yavatmal