

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
HELD FOR
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
SUGAR CANE CRUSHING CAPACITY
FROM 12000 TCD TO 16000 TCD,
IN RESPECT OF
M/S. JAWAHAR SHETKARI SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA
LTD., LOCATED AT HUPARI,
TAL: HATKANANGALE, DIST: KOLHAPUR
(MAHARASHATRA STATE)**

The environmental public hearing for proposed expansion of sugar cane crushing capacity from 12000 TCD to 16000 TCD in respect of M/s. Jawahar Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. was held on 12-12-2019 at 11.30 A.M. at the factory site.

Following panel members were present for the public hearing:-

1. Hon'ble Shri. Bhausahab Galande, - Chairman
Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur.
(Representative of District Collector, Kolhapur)
2. Shri. Ravindra Andhale, - Member
I/c. Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.
(Representative of Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board)
3. Shri Prashant Gaikwad, - Convener
Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board,
Kolhapur.

First of all, Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Convener of the environmental public hearing welcomed the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman started the public hearing. He informed that the proposed project comes under category 'A' of EIA Notification 2006 as amended of MoEFCC, Government of India and hence, environmental public hearing is mandatory for the project. For that purpose the project proponent has submitted proposal to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. MoEFCC, New Delhi has approved ToR to the project proponent on certain terms and conditions to prepare a draft EIA Report for the proposed project. Thereafter, the project proponent has prepared and submitted draft Environment Impact Assessment Report to the Government. Thereafter, the Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur gave date for the public hearing. After that, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board published notice regarding environmental public hearing in daily newspapers,

the Marathi newspaper daily "Pudhari" and English newspaper "The Times of India" on 08-11-2019. The copies of EIA report and executive summary were made available for study to public at the District Collector Office, Kolhapur; District Industries Center, Kolhapur; Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur; The Secretary, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralay, Mumbai; Head Office of M.P.C. Board, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur; Sub Divisional Office, Karveer; Sub Divisional Office, Ichalkarani; Tahsil Office, Hatkanangale; Panchayat Samiti Office, Hatkanangale; Municipal Council, Hupari, Gram Panchayat, Yalgud, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur and requested to submit their complaints, objections, suggestions etc. He informed that till now MPC Board has not received any written complaints, objections or representation regarding proposed project. The convener requested public to ask questions, submit their complaints, suggestions orally or in writing. These will be included in the minutes of the environmental public hearing. He clarified that this committee does not take any decision regarding granting permission to the proposed project. The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public about the proposed project, its effects on environment and precautionary measures to be taken to protect the environment and also to record suggestions and objections of the public and to submit the minutes to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. Then he instructed the environmental consultant of the proposed project to give presentation.

Thereafter, the environmental consultant Dr. Sangram Ghugare, M/s. Equinox Environments (I) Pvt. Ltd. presented information with the help of slide show. He informed that M/s. Jawahar SSSK Ltd. was established in 1990 with initial sugar cane crushing capacity of 2 TCD. Sugar industry comes under 'B' category. This project is located at a distance of 2.35 kms. from Interstate boundry of Maharashtra-Karnataka states. But as per the notification of MOEFCC, if any project is located within 5 Kms from interstate boundry it will be considered as in Category 'A' and hence, the proposed project is considered in this category instead of category 'B'. He presented information regarding background of the factory, geographical location of the project, environment around the project, information about integrated project, features of proposed project, details of project proponents, need for expansion of the project, remarkable activities and awards won by the factory, products and by products, raw material, process of sugar cane production and co-generation, use of water for sugar and co-generation plants, domestic and industrial effluent generation in sugar and co-generation plants, industrial effluent treatment plant of sugar plant, sources of pollution, accident management plan, green belt development, expenditure carried out under socio economic programme, proposed socio economic programme, investment details of environmental aspects, environmental monitoring programme, satellite images, bio-diversity, habitat etc.

After above presentation, following discussion / question-answer took place.

Q.1. Shri. Dadaso Vyankatrao Khanvilkar, Village Rendal, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

From where will you make available raw material for the proposed project ?

Ans:

Shri. Manohar Joshi, Managing Director of M/s. Jawahar S.S.S.K. Ltd. replied that farmers within working area of the sugar factory supply sugarcane produced by them to this factory for crushing. As per the records available, this year sugarcane produced on 24000 hectares of land has been supplied for crushing. Sugarcane is the main raw material of this factory. After expansion, sugarcane produced in the working area of this factory only will be utilized for crushing. Therefore, there is no need to bring the same from outside the working area of the factory.

Q.2. Shri. Sujit Dhondiram Shinde, village Rendal, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

How much sugar will be produced from the proposed project ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that if the proposed project runs for 100 days, 16 lakh ton sugarcane will be crushed and if the proposed project runs for 160 days, up to 25 lakh ton sugarcane will be crushed. Presently the rate of sugar recovery has reached up to 12.75% which the factory has planned to increase up to 13% Uptil now, the factory has produced 22 lakh tons of sugar. If the rate of 13% recovery is achieved, the capacity of sugarcane production will reach up to 30 to 32 lakh tons in 160 days.

Q.3. Shri. Suresh Amgonda Bhojkar.

What plans do you have for planting trees in the working area and factory premises of the sugar factory ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that the factory has working area of about 100 hectares. Of these, tree plantation has been done on 34.5% of land. You can view it from the Satellite. Apart from this, tree plantation of about 5% on remaining land is planned after the expansion.

Q.4. Shri Vijay Eknath Joshi, resident of Hupari, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

Which by-products will be produced after expansion ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that at present, our factory has 27 MW of power generation. Out of that, 12 to 14 MW of electricity is used for the plant itself and the remaining power is sold to the State Electricity Board. In addition to this, bagasse and molasses is produced by the factory. Molasses is sold in the market at a good price. It is planned to build an additional storage tank to maintain the quality of the molasses. There are lot of textile industries around our factory and hence, there is also a good demand for bagasse in local markets. Due to the fact that the bagasse manufactured in our sugar factory is also of good quality, the industries in Kagal Hatkangale Five Star MIDC as well as the boilers of textile processing industries at Ichalkaranji are well-run on our sugar factory bagasse and are in good demand in the local market.

Q.5. Shri. Appasaheb Patil, village Pattankodoli, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Dist. Kolhapur.

What are the working days of the co-generation project ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that Back Pressure Turbine and Condensing Turbine are two types of generating power. In 1994, the factory management started producing electricity of 1.5 MW capacity through back pressure turbine type of power generation. In the year 2000, the factory management started producing electricity of 20 MW through back pressure turbine type of power generation. In the year 2007, electricity generation was increased by 3 MW with back pressure turbine generation of power. The advantage of back pressure turbine is that after consumption of electricity in our own plant, we can sold the remaining electricity to the state electricity board. The remaining bagasse can also be sold in the market. After expansion, the internal consumption of electricity will decrease and the excess electricity will be sold to the state electricity board.

Q.6. Shri. Harun Sardar Mujawar, Village Rendal, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

How much will the proposed project cost ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that the cost of proposed expansion will be approx. Rs. 34 crores which is very less capital expenditure.

Q.7. Shri. Waman Bhaskar Kamble, resident of village Randal, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

What will be the benefit of the proposed project to Rendal, Hupri, Yalgud, Rangoli and Jangamwadi villages adjacent to the sugar factory ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that the project is located at the boundaries of three villages i.e. Rendal, Hupri and Yalgud. Most importantly, most of the local employment has been generated in these three villages and from hereon also jobs will generate. The treated waste water of the factory is supplied to sugarcane production on 100 acres of land in Jangamwadi village, where river water could never be brought. It may increase slightly. If the geographical situation of the factory is taken into account, the factory has created big market by way of providing employment opportunities, impetus to cottage industry, growth in the industry etc. and there is good economic turnaround. There is minimal pollution and hence, no nuisance to villagers.

Q.8. Shri. Appasaheb Patil, resident of village Yalgud, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

What kinds of polluted water will be generated from the proposed project and what will be its quantity ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that according to the standards set by the Central Pollution Control Board, 200 litres of waste water can be generated for producing one ton sugar. At present, our factory produces about 93 liters of wastewater from crushing one ton of sugarcane. After expansion, the waste water generation is likely to be reduced to 87-85 litres per ton of sugarcane crushing. This water is used for tree plantation and also provided for 100 to 125 acres of land for sugarcane crop at Jangamwadi village as per demand of the members. We have strictly adhered to the standards of the Central Pollution Control Board.

Q.9. Shri. Sanatkumar Paygonda Bhojkar, Village Talandage, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

We have attended this public hearing in response to the notice published by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Much information is given during the presentation, but most importantly, does the factory periodically check the waste water quality, air pollution, noise generated by the project ? Will you continue to check the same from hereon, and if so, through which agency are you going to monitor the same ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that we do not send the waste water outside the factory premises and after treatment it is possibly used for gardening in the factory premises. We have build two tanks in the factory premises to store rain water. Rain water is stored in these two tanks. The buzzer / horn sounds at the time of changing shifts and its sound does not go beyond the factory premises. Dust particles generate only if the system breaks down. The ash produced is used as

fertilizer. The factory management has taken all precautionary measures to control air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution to avoid their impact on the citizens of the neighboring villages. We have appointed external agencies to check the pollution and their inspection report is submitted to the Government.

Q.10. Shri. Ananda Dhondiba Mali, resident of village Yalgud, Ta Hakatangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

First of all I congratulate the board of directors and thank them for the proposed project. Which pollution control equipments are you going to provide after expansion ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that air pollution and water pollution are measured regularly. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board, monitor the system online and if it exceeds the limit, it is immediately communicated. The system is up to date and has been operating in the factory for the last four years.

Dr. Ghugare said that in the environmental clearance issued or which is going to be issued, some conditions are laid out and reports of compliance with those conditions have to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change at Nagpur every six months. Thereafter, their officers visit the factory as well as MPCB officials visit the factory twice every month. In addition, the officers of Central Pollution Control Board visit factory without any notice and inspect whether the pollution control system is working properly or not. Hence, they are required to be operated properly. All records are checked.

Q.11. Shri Dhananjay Gopal Magdum, resident of village Pattankodoli, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

Will the proposed project have an impact on the health of the locals ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that due to planting of trees in our factory premises, there is sufficient oxygen in the premises and hence, the health conditions of the factory workers are good. Due to the fact that there is no pollution in the neighboring villages, no health problems has been arisen, and also precautions have been taken that there will be no such problems from hereon.

Dr. Ghugare said that our social scientists have randomly collected health data of the people in the study area age groupwise and it was found that the health index of the people in this area is 70 to 72 percent which indicates good health. But the factory is not solely responsible for pollution, surrounding factors like river pollution, contaminated water etc. are also responsible.

Q.12. Shri. Vasant Mahadev Ghatge, Village Village Jangamwadi, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

How much litre water will be required for the proposed project and from where will it be made available ?

Ans:

Dr. Ghugare replied that water within sugarcane will be used for the proposed project. For 1 ton crushing of sugarcane, 100 litres of river water is required which has been allowed by the Irrigation Department. We use less than 60 to 70% of water for which permission is given by them.

Q.13. Shri. Anil Chougule, Member, District Environment Committee Member, Kolhapur, Dist. Kolhapur.

During the presentation, in a slide, there was mention of domestic waste water treatment plant and industrial waste water treatment plant, please explain about it. Have you set up Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant to treat the domestic wastewater generated currently?

Ans:

Dr. Ghugare replied that domestic waste generated by staff, factory workers and the colonies will be treated in the domestic wastewater treatment plant and industrial wastewater will be processed at the industrial waste water treatment plant and the treated wastewater will be used on land for gardening. Presently, we have not set up domestic wastewater treatment plant. Domestic wastewater treatment plant is proposed as per the terms of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Q.14. Shri. Vijay Patil, Village Yalgud, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

Will increased production provide employment opportunities ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that capital expenditure of Rs. 34 crore will be incurred for proposed expansion and additional 99 jobs will generate.

Q.15. Shri. Chandrakant Maruti Vadd, Gram Panchayat Members.

How much electricity will be generated from the proposed project ?

Ans:

Shri. Joshi replied that currently 27 MW electricity is being generated, the integrated project will require 14 to 15 MW electricity and the remaining power will be supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

Q.16. Shri. Subhash Annaso Gotkhinde, Ex-Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Yalgud, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

My agricultural land is located adjacent to the compound wall South direction of the factory. Sugarcane and vegetables grow in my field. I sincerely thank the factory management, this sugar factory has been operating from last 27 years and going for expansion for present 12000 TCD to 16000 TCD. My suggestion is that if 20000 metric tonnes of sugar per day was produced instead of 16000 metric tonnes per day, the factory would have completed crushing season within 90 days and overheads would have been reduced and the crops like soyabean, groundnut could be harvested. I have another suggestion, as the sugar factory completely comes in the boundary area of village Yalgud, priority should be given while giving help under CSR and also preference should be given to the villagers of Yalgud for newly generated jobs. Take note of my suggestions.

Ans:

Shri. Joshi welcomed the suggestion and said that the expansion of the sugar factory so far has been done step by step taking into account the economical results. Taking into consideration the command area of the sugarcane crop, the proposal regarding increase in crushing capacity up to 20000 TCD will be put up before the Board of Directors, and after their approval, further actions will be initiated. So far, the villages of Jangamwadi, Yalgud, Hupri, Rendal and Talandge have been given priority under CSR and in terms of employment opportunities. These villages will continue to be a priority.

Q.17. Shri. Kuber Patil, Village Yalgud, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

My best wishes for expansion. Presently, the roads in this area are as it is from the time when factory started operations. The government and the factory management should undertake the work of widening these roads. In past, there was no less traffic, but due to expansion of the factory, there is increase in the traffic now. So the factory management should consider this problem.

Ans:

Shri Joshi welcomed the suggestion and said that as the movement of vehicles coming to the factory has increased, the representatives of the people, the Collector's Office, and the State Government should take notice of this problem, start road widening work and they should be made tarred. The factory management will take follow up with the government in future also.

Q.18. Shri. Vilas Khanvilkar, Former Member of Zilla Parishad, resident of village Rendal, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

The sugar factory is about to be expanded. In this area, if you consider the command area of thirteen villages, expansion of the factory is necessary. The question of environment and pollution was also raised at time of expansion from 2500 TCD to 12000 TCD. The Chairman of the factory and the board of directors had taken care of the environment and pollution since the factory started. Trees were planted before the factory was set up. At the time of expansion of 12000 TCD, we were saying that the smoke and ash emitted by the chimney would lead to pollution due to expansion, will cause diseases among the villagers, and also there will be pollution due to waste water of the factory. However, the factory did not release the sewage and provided 1 acre sugarcane at Jangamwadi where river water is not discharged waste water outside the factory premises. The treated waste water is used for irrigating 100 acres of sugarcane crop at village Jangamwadi, where there is no water supply from the river. I agree with Shri. Gotkhinde, the former sarpanch to go for expansion of 20000 TCD. Taking into consideration the present situation, there is a need for expansion, so it should be approved.

Q.19. Sarpanch of Grampanchayat Talandge, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

Our village is at a distance of 7 kms from the sugar factory. Our village has no nuisance from the factory. I request that our village should also be given help under CSR programme.

Ans:

Shri Joshi welcomed the suggestion and said that the factory is implementing drip irrigation full automation scheme in village Talandge, and in future also such schemes will be implemented in 4 to 5 villages mentioned above.

Q.20. Mrs. Shalan Ravsaheb Patil, Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Ingali, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

Our village is close to the factory, there is no nuisance to our village from this factory. Lot of laborers from our village are working in this factory. We have no complaints about the factory.

After above discussion, the Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee said that the committee sufficient opportunity has been given to the villagers to express their views and many villagers have expressed their views. These views are recorded by the committee and will be included in the minutes of the public hearing and the minutes will be submitted to MOEFCC for further necessary action.

At last, the Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee thanked public for their cooperation in conducting the public hearing peacefully and thereafter, declared the meeting concluded.

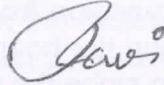


(Prashant Gaikwad)

Convener

Cum

Sub Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur.



(Ravindra Andhale)

Member

Cum

Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur.



(Bhausaheb Galande)

Chairman

Cum

Additional District Magistrate,
Kolhapur.