

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN THE PRODUCTION OF SPECIALITY CHEMICALS FROM 6,715.0 MT/M TO 20,090.94 MT/M IN RESPECT OF M/S GODAVARI BIOREFINARIES LTD., GUT NO.159-165, 180/1, 180/2, 181/1, 181/2, 187/1,187/2, 188,189,199,158,167-178,511,139/2, GRAMPANCHAYAT-WARI, POST-SAKARWADI, TAL - KOPARGAON DIST- AHMEDNAGAR (413 708), MAHARASHTRA

The public hearing for proposed expansion in the production of Speciality Chemicals from 6,715.0 MT/M to 20,090.94 MT/M in respect of M/s Godavari Bio-Refineries Ltd., Gut No.159-165, 180/1, 180/2, 181/1, 181/2, 187/1,187/2, 188,189,199,158,167-178,511,139/2, Grampanchayat – Wari, Post – Sakarwadi, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar (413 708), Maharashtra was conducted on 14th October, 2020 on site of the said industry at 11.00 a.m.

Following panel members were present for Public Hearing:-

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| 1) Additional District Magistrate,
Ahmednagar | Chairman |
| 2) Regional Officer, MPCB, Nashik | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Ahmednagar | Convener |

First Session

Shri Sanjeev A. Redasni, I/c Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Ahmednagar and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Company Officials and participants who were present in large number and informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain polluting projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. MPCB, is was in receipt of application of M/s. Godavari Bio-Refineries Ltd., Gut No.159-165, 180/1, 180/2, 181/1, 181/2, 187/1,187/2, 188,189,199,158,167-178,511,139/2, Grampanchayat – Wari, Post – Sakarwadi, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist. – Ahmednagar (413 708),for public hearing towards proposed expansion in the production of Speciality Chemicals from 6,715.0 MT/M to 20,090.94 MT/MT

Convener briefed about importance of public hearing and procedure adopted for public hearing as per Notification of MOEF.

The public hearing was fixed on 07-04-2020, but due to Covid-19 pandemic, it was cancelled.

As per the Office Memorandum of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi dated 14th September, 2020, while conducting the public hearing, certain guidelines are issued such as wearing of mask, keeping social distancing and use of sanitizers & today on 14.10.2020 public hearing is proposed.

Convener also informed that the Board is in receipt of total 9 complaints/ suggestions and record of the same is taken. Also appealed to the participants about any written/ oral suggestion/complaints in the public hearing after delivery of presentation by the Environment Consultant, public hearing is being conducted group phase due to COVID-19. Environmental Consultant of the project presented the details about proponent during public hearing.

Environment Consultant informed that Rupees 200 Crores will be invested for the proposed project. This is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) project. He informed about the entire project details along with Environment Management Plan of the company.

After the presentation, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise their views, suggestions and objections regarding the Environmental aspects of the project.

Followings points are raised during public hearing :-

1) Shri Amol Annasaheb Teke, Warigaon, Tal-Kopargaon, Dist -Ahmednagar:-

I have given my written suggestions on 12-10-2020 at MPCB Ahmednagar office. I request MPCB officials to keep the suggestions before Public Hearing Committee. It is requested that

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- a) Project Proponent has obtained various permissions for running the industry. But permission of how much litres of water will be lifted annually from the Irrigation Department is not mentioned. It should be explained;
- b) It is mandatory to make available the report of Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIA) and Executive Summary in local language Marathi well in advance. Irrespective of this, English report is made available. I object for it. Only Executive Summary is made available in Marathi. The Grampanchayat office has given me in writing that they did not get EIA report in Marathi.
- c) I bring to the notice to Environment Public Hearing Committee that it is mandatory to study the impact of 10 k.m. radius from the project site. There are 24 villages in 10 k.m. radius, but the Environment Consultant has carried the study of specific 10 villages only.



Then, why the study of all 24 villages is not carried. The reasons should be informed in the meeting;

- d) The detailed information of the project is not obtained from the factory while preparing EIA report. The discrepancies and violations of the environmental laws made by the Project Proponent previously and actions initiated by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and National Green Tribunal (NGT) is not mentioned in EIA report. It should be explained;
- e) The judgement of National Green Tribunal and letter/present status of the judgement from the MPCB is not obtained. The NGT has given the Judgment that the ground water quality also is not remained fit for agriculture purposes. No answer is given in EIA report;
- f) As per Chapter IV, the presentation is made for green belt development. It is mentioned in the presentation that this project is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD). As the project is in operation, the water used for green belt area which is there at present and additional water for proposed green belt is not mentioned in the report. In the report, the present 14,000 number of trees are considered. After plantation of more 10,000 trees, there will be 25,000 number of trees. Then how much water per day will be required, how much treated water from Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) will be obtained per day for green belt is not mentioned. It should be explained. The area of green belt, number of trees and the effluent which will be produced and their interconnection is not matching.

Shri Teke further said that there will be 27.0 lakh litres per day usage of water in the project. Then definitely effluent will be produced per day. Then how much treated effluent will be used per day, how much rain water will be used per day and how much water will be used per day should be explained. Hence it can be concluded that additional water will be spread on the land. There are many complaints and objections against this project which are pending at MPCB office. Nothing is informed to Public Hearing Committee. Further the changes occurred on the Environment since 1939 should have been brought to the notice of Public Hearing Committee by the Project Proponent as it is their prime duty.

Due to noise pollution, the local people are suffering by headache, irritable /short tempered behavioural problems. There was a school in the area of project. Small children used to learn. It is now shifted.

He further said that writing objections are already submitted to Chairman, Public Hearing Committee. The modifications should be made in the EIA report before submitting to MoEFCC. The total area of the project is mentioned. It is mentioned that



there are 462 houses. I appeal to count it. While paying taxes to Grampanchayat, the tax is paid of 100 houses, 65 bungalows and open space for three years, which is paid Rupees 18/- lakh only.

I request Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee that whatever taxes are paid; 70% concession is given. The construction is built in 1939, when sugar factory started. In most of the houses in rainy season, the pots have to be kept to collect the rain water.

It is mentioned in the report that expansion will be carried in Gut no. 199. But the poor people are staying there since last seven years. It is not mentioned in the report. The Grampanchayat has already extended the services of drinking water supply and roads. Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee is requested to investigate the same.

Shri Teke further blamed that Environment Consultant did not observe any historic temple. He said that in Aurangabad, there is temple of 16th century. When there is Kumbh Mela after each 12 years, all the saints do stay there. This famous historic temple is not mentioned in the EIA report.

Hence, it is our conclusion that this report is prepared in the office. No survey is carried.

He informed that the forest land is in the area of village. The survey number is 125 and 126. But it is not mentioned in the report.

While informing the present status of the roads, he informed that the news published in 65 newspapers that heavy vehicles of the projects have totally destroyed the road. In rural areas, 15 tons of load can be transported. Can be possible. But here, more than 40 tons of load is carried. 600Mt to 2000MT is the Final Finish product

Project Proponent has planned the expansion i.e, 600Mt to 2000MT is the Final Finish product. How much tons of load will be carried is not mentioned by the project proponent?

For the production activities, raw material i.e. coal is required. Here 464.0 Ton coal will be burnt. How much carbon will be produced? How many trucks will come in the village? Project consultant should inform the planning. It is our experience that the heavy vehicles are parked on the road only, which makes hurdles to local people. Moreover, there are chances of accident. In our village, there is only one way from railway gate to village. The poor people do work for their livelihood. Due to increase in



transport, their livelihood will be affected. Hence, the company should plan whether new/alternate road can be developed. While carrying expansion, the project proponent should avoid the mistakes carried in the past.

Here it can be noted that the effluent which will produced in the company, number of trees and area does not match.

Hence, Public Hearing Committee is requested to collect the water samples of Paithan Dam and investigate whether any residues are observed. Here one lady participant objected that the person is talking to much time, other also wants to raise suggestions.

Chairman, Public Hearing Committee here remarked that the points raised are correct, but as written objections are submitted, it is not necessary to inform all points. If there are new points, it should be mentioned in short.

Shri Teke informed about the noise pollution issues. He informed that Nagpur-Pune Samruddhi High Way is passing near the project. It will be in operation since 2021. The report is salient about the pollution load after commencing the road. Secondly, the if there will be any difference in results Of MPCB and EIA report between effluent which will be produced by other neighbouring companies such as Sainath Agro, Mauni Agro or other fertilizer manufacturing company generating municipal and the effluent generating of Godavari project can create difference. Thus, this kind of results be shared to Central Committee? Public Hearing Committee is requested to direct Project Consultant for the same.

2) Shri Ashok Narayan Teke, Wari village, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar :-

Shri Ashok Teke informed that today public hearing is arranged for the expansion of Godavari Biorefineries. The public hearing was conducted in 2001 also. At that time, the suggestions and objections raised is again repeating.

- a) The distance of village and Godavari river should be mentioned;
- b) As per your information, Noise Pollution point and wind speed was from West to East. This Speed is suggested by the company. But this speed is further travelling beyond the company. Thus, whether air monitoring is carried while wind is flowing, as the dust can be entered in any house;
- c) Whether ground water sampling is done? At which depth the water samples are collected? At which level the water is polluted? The information should be made available;
- d) The soil analysis report given in the EIA is totally wrong;



- e) The noise monitoring report is false and misleading; A copy of the survey carried for 10 k.m. radius should be made available;
- f) Many plots are in our village is of Forest Department It is not mentioned in EIA report.

At this moment, Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee asked whether Talathi of the village is present? He informed to give present status of Gut no.125 and 126.

Shri Teke here objected that by misleading the Government and people, the factory has taken the permission.

Hence, expansion should not be allowed.

3) Shri Rahul Madhukar Teke, Resident of Wari village, Tal – Kopargaoon, Dist – Ahmednagar –

The project was established in 1939. At that time, there was a festive mood. It is informed by old generation. If the project is commissioned in any area, there are job opportunities and increase in the business. Hence, all the social components gets the justice.

Shri Rahul Teke further remarked that while cooking in the house, we have to light a fire. There will be smoke. We cannot put off the choolha. The present situation of the local roads is totally shattering. Hence, project proponent should plan for development of road.

He said that as I am Member of Grampanchayat, I know the emotions and need of the people. We have also to face the public fury/anger. Now the notable persons of our Society visit foreign countries to learn new technologies and start project here.

Hence, after expansion, if there will be increase the business, then it will be welcomed. But the project proponent should also follow the strict guidelines. While spending CSR Fund, the local people should be taken into confidence.

The project is old. Hence whatever happened in the past, should not happen in future. But project should be expanded. Then there will be job opportunities.

Shri Rahul Teke informed that on Gut no.199, there is water reservoir/small lake of the factory. We are staying in that area only. There were chances of water pollution, hence we requested Factory authorities to do the needful. The factory authorities have increased the depth of lake by 10 feet. Hence, the villagers are getting Water.

He said that if we think the topographical conditions of the project place, one said there is River Godavari, other side Kanhegaon and another side there is railway and at other side a village. Out of four sides, two sides have agriculture. At the north sides i.e. at farming sides, there are pollution problems. Some residents have filed a petition in the

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Court of Law. If the company give them compensation for the loss, they will also support the industry. The village Sakarwadi gets the water from this lake only. I support for expansion of the project as there will be increase in job opportunities.

4) Shri Pramod Gulabrao Shinde -

He congratulated management of the company for the expansion of the project. There will be increase in job opportunities. He has submitted few suggestions to the factory management –

- a) This is chemical plant. The officers working in this company do not stay here. Almost many of them do up-and-down from Kopergaon. He requested them to stay here only.
- b) He further suggested that Project Proponent should give information regarding CSR Fund to the villagers. If the young people gets the job opportunities, then only local people will support the project. The management should give top priority for solving the local issues such as repairs of the road. All the villagers are of the opinion that project should be expanded. Hence, support for the expansion.

5) Shri Raosaheb Changdev Teke, Resident of WariGaon, Tal – Kopergaon, Dist – Ahmednagar :-

Shri Raosaheb Teke said that Project Proponent has started the sugar factory in 1939. The distillery unit was started in 1961. In 2013, the distillery project was closed due to water scarcity and pollution problems. In 2016, all the social and political convener requested Project Proponent to start the project again.

All have observed the special quality of Project Proponent that Project Proponent do talk personally and tries to solve the problem. The distillery project was commissioned in 1961 and closed in 2013. Nearly 50-55 years, the project was in operation. At that time after independence, there was no Government Bodies like CPCB and MPCB and Government was also not very active for pollution control. There was no technology available. The new policies have been framed. Dr. Rajendra Shingh, Water Expert from Rajasthan was called here, who have carried revival of rivers successfully at Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. His team has carried detailed survey and gave suggestions to the management of the project. He gave suggestions that the depth of the nalla should be increased and water tables of the area should also be increased.

Unfortunately, nothing is implemented. After declaration of the public hearing, it is requested to all to raise their issues before the Public Hearing Committee. Grampanchayat has already given the letter. There are four suggestions –

- a) The sources of water have been polluted due to water pollution. A time-bound implementation programme should be prepared to clean the drinking water sources and water sources used by the farmers. Water conservation should be increased. The local farmers and workers should be happy.
- b) The factory should be in operation and production activities should be expanded. Just as we always think of 15 k.m. radius, hence the surrounding roads should be repaired and be kept well.
- c) If any projects comes, naturally it brings prosperity. But project officers should stay here only, then there will increase in various business activities. But if project officials are coming from Kopargaon, Shrirampur, there is no benefit to our village. If all stay here, then definitely our local market will flourish;
- d) The Primary Health Centre (PHC) is in village. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, we now recognized the importance of urgent medical help. Hence, here also there should be hospital, in which all the medical services be available.
- e) He said that I support the expansion. There should not be any pending issues of workers and farmers in the area.

6) Shri Alias Divakar Nile, Resident of Wari Gaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar :-

The public hearing is conducted for the expansion of the project. We do not want pollution. The Large project is in operation. While expansion, the project proponent might have definitely thought of safety and pollution control. The Project Proponent has commissioned this project for local farmers, workers and for the development of the area.

Without prior permission of the Government, nothing can be done. From 1939, the local people are working in this company, then why we should think of other things. The doctor in the area charges 200 to 500 rupees for consultation. But in Somaiya's dispensary, all the treatment is given just in Rupees 20/-. Secondly, the Somaiya Group do organise Health Camps and if required, the patient is taken to Mumbai for further medical treatment and spends 2 lakh. Hence, I request that –

- a) The Health Camp should be arranged twice in a year;



- b) I am also farmer. The jobs of many people have been ceased due Covid-19 pandemic. Here the factory was kept closed for five days. But full salary is paid to all. In MIDC area, many factories have shut down their activities. They have cut the salaries due to Covid-19 shut down. As there is no salary, many people left their job. But here nothing is done. If the pupils of the workers gets good marks in the final exam, Somaiya Group offers them Free Education.
- c) As a Local Resident, I support the expansion of the project.

7) Ms. Suvarna Ashokrao Gaibhiv, Resident of Sakarwadi, Tal -Kopargaon, Dist-Ahmednagar, Member, Wari Grampanchayat -

I am house-wife and Member of Wari Grampanchayat and I want to know few things -

- a) Where (which place in the plant) this project will be commissioned?
- b) Under CSR fund, which work will be undertaken. Previously the saplings were planted, now where it will be planted, which saplings will be planted. What will be its types? For this project, where the water will be brought, how it will be stored and how the effluent will be treated? Secondly, as asked by many participants, how many times in a year the Health Camp will be organised?

8) Shri Machhindra Teke, Resident of Warigaon, Tal-Kopargaon, Dist-Ahmednagar, Ex-Sarpanch, WariGaon :-

Shri Machhindra Teke remarked that today's public hearing is most important for the project and for the total area. Here, there are few technical, legal and social aspects are here. Due to this public hearing, the participants can raise their suggestions, objections.

Shri Teke gave detailed information of Khandakari farmers from 1938-39. He informed that the local people does not have any technical knowledge. Hence, the name of the units in the project be informed. The factory is in rural area, hence it should be in operation. Project Proponent informed that there are 400 people working the plant and after expansion, additional 200 people will be given job opportunity. Hence, business of the area will increase. Few years back, few local people have suffered due to pollution from the industry, It is requested that amicable solution please be made with the sufferers and congenial atmosphere be maintained in the village.

Now, here also some new issues will arise. The Project proponent will have to take more water of 2,691.0 M³. Previously, it is using 2,691.0 M³ of water. It means that every day 26.0 lakh litres of water will be used by the industry. It means 95.0 crores of water will



be used for the project proponent annually. The treated water will be again recycled and reused in the process will be 40% only.

Shri Machhindra Teke further informed that this is agriculture region. This area is called as Rain Shadow Zone. Here rainfall is very less. The rainfall of this year is an exception. When there is less rainfall, then the water tankers are required. The agriculture land has become total barren. The water should be used very carefully. Project Proponent is going to use previously sanctioned water of 3,092.0 M³. It is requested that Project Proponent should recycle and reuse the 80% of water and additional fresh water should be used less.

Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent informed that Irrigation Department of the Govt. of Maharashtra has sanctioned the permission to lift the water from Lift Canal. There is objection that the project proponent uses excess water than sanctioned water. Due to water pollution, many issues/questions were raised. Hence, 80% of treated effluent should be recycled and reused in the process. The Project Proponent should make investment for it.

Shri Teke informed that though anti air pollution steps have been informed, we are not at all satisfied for it. In the days of Covid-19 pandemic, the patients expired due to lack of oxygen only. Hence, the trees which produces more oxygen should be planted and maintained.

Project Proponent informed that as commitment to the social responsibility, we have planned to spend 1 ½ crores of rupees. The present road condition is very serious, so also water supply schemes. Shri Teke informed that Project Proponent should use the amount for road repairing and he appealed that the roads should be prepared to carry the 60 ton load. Shri Teke further informed that Somaiya Group do organise the Health Camps through their charitable trust. Now it is not organised. The local people wished that the health camps should be arranged twice in a year. The poor people get the medical treatment and if they suffers due to chronic illness which can be diagnosed in the health camp, further treatment can be given to them through Charitable Trust.

Though this is rural area, this area does not have any shortcomings. In this village, there are boys and girls, who scored 97%. If the students are from poor family, then Project Proponent should take their responsibility as social commitment. All the schools are closed due to Covid-19 pandemic. But 40% local students, have no Android Mobile. Hence, they will remain deprived from the education. It is suggested that the budgetary provisions of 1 – 2 crores please be made. It should be utilized in this area only. The local



people should be given priority in the job opportunities, health camps, recycle and reuse of effluent for these budgetary provisions of one crores should be made. He said all the points should be covered in the minutes of meeting. We are support the expansion of project with prevailing certain suggestions.

Shri Teke further informed that the Grampanchayat fund is sanctioned as per the population. The population of Wari village is becoming less. Due to this, the water supply of Wari village is not sanctioned. The management and officials of the industry should stay here. This village is of minorities, poor and downtrodden people. We are staying here by joy. In the village, we have maintained social harmony. Hence, for the progress, we support the expansion of the project.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee here remarked that Shri Machhidra Teke has raised very good issues. It is noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

9) **Shri Ramdas Waman Sonawane, Ex-Sarpanch, WariGaon, Tal-Kopargaon, Dist-Ahmednagar:-**

Shri Ramdas Sonawane suggested that the people residing near the project has also Right to Live. Water, Air should get pure to them and trees are most important to get the pure air. Hence various trees should be planted and nourished. The workers working in the plant are given Skilled Development Training from time to time. Now the training of ISO 9000 and 9001 should be given. Modern devices for the safety of workers are installed in the plant. It should be increased. The training to handle these devices should be given.

Shri Ramchandra Sonawane here suggested that as social responsibility, local ladies/female employees should be given, just as few companies are implementing the projects of preparing of paper bags. The industry gives scholarship to the pupils who scores good marks in 10th and 12th standard. It should be continued.

As discussed during the meeting, considering the local need, roads of the vicinity should be repaired. The amount of 1 ½ crores be reserved. It should be increased.

10) **Shri Namdeo Khandu Jadhav, Village-Wari, Tal-Kopargaon, Dist -Ahmednagar:--**

Shri Namdeo Khandu Jadhav informed that for this public hearing, many local people and my farmers brothers came. They have raised studied objections. Our villages will not be able to understand the technical issues. But their wish for various social programmes with



our group Somaiya Group is harassment. The local people do not wish that this factory should be stopped. They wished him good prosperity.

He further remarked that due to Sakhar Manthan (Marathi), the project proponent has started the project. Now the people get job opportunities and there will be prosperity.

11) Shri Prakash Sadashiv Karde, Resident of Kanhegaon, Tal – Kopergaon, Dist- Ahmednagar -

Shri Prakash Karde briefed the World Trade Agreement of 1995; the steps of big industries to open the business in China; then the last efforts of the chemical industries in India to remain operative, But Somaiya Group kept their business working and now they proposes expansion.

Due to expansion, if the company and the area gets additional advantage, then expansion should be completed. He said that expansion should be carried by following all the MPCB norms. Shri Somaiya kept very cordial relations with all the workers.

He appealed the management that our industry is running in the rural area. The boys and girls are clever of this area. But after attending school in the morning, they have to go to agriculture fields. They get less marks than the city students. Hence considering the situation, the local rural students should be given priority.

He also appealed the management to co-operate for repairs and development of two lanes road. He also appealed to solve permanently pollution issues and keep cordial relations while solving the compensation issues. He appealed local people to support for expansion.

12) Shri Tarachand Haibati Palghadmal :-

Shri Tarachand Palghadmal remarked that on the expansion of the project only, most of people's livelihood is dependent. Sugar factory is stopped. The distillery is also closed. Acid producing project also stopped. But project proponent kept running the project. The village was facing scarcity of drinking water. The project proponent has given their plot for the scheme. If the local poor students does not have money, then the project proponent gave the lakh of rupees for his education. Hence, the participants are requested to support the project.





Second Session

Convener, Public Hearing Committee welcomed all the participants and appealed to raise the issues of environmental related only, as this public hearing is for the environment.

1) Shri Divakar Sakharam Nile, Resident of Warigaon, Tal -Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar, Ex-Sarpanch, Warigaon :-

There was serious problem of drinking water in the village. We were trying to get approval the water supply scheme since 1996. There was no place. Project Proponent has given their 5 acre land for water. They should extend help for medical and education to needy local people. We support the expansion.

2) Advocate Asim Sarode, Pune -

At this moment, Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee appealed all the participants to raise the issues, suggestions and objections related to environmental angle only. It should be in brief only.

Shri Asim Sarode informed that -

- a) On page no.5, it is given in writing that Lead Acid will be disposed of at CHWTSD. It is totally wrong. Lead Acid Battery should be disposed of as per Battery Act only; it should be disposed to recycler
- b) Water Quality – Page no.9 - Written Objection is submitted; not submitted in EIA report
- c) Water budget is not given. It is mentioned that treated domestic effluent will be used for gardening. Previously there was 200.0 M³/day of treated domestic effluent and now 250.0 M³/day. There where is that garden, as the treated effluent will be toxic. Hence green belt will not survive. If the effluent is used without treatment, then ground water quality will be totally damaged;
- d) Quality of Treated Effluent – No standards are given. It was necessary to give standards. The figures of BOD and COD is not mentioned. The Project Proponent should give in writing to MPCB that they will not discharge generated effluent in river.
- e) If the effluent is discharged in Godavari River, then the company will be prosecuted should be given in writing by MPCB;
- f) Many information is not mentioned in EIA. It is totally false that this project is ZLD. Information regarding scrubber is not given. Information related to absorbers is not given in the report
- g) The method of new chemical is not mentioned;



- h) One chart is given in English for which public hearing can be taken once again. No one including me has understood it. The same shall be given in Marathi. Otherwise public hearing will have to be conducted again;
- i) Reports of air monitoring are not given. Wastewater disposal details are not told. MPCB should laid down the Rule that the Project Proponent will dispose its treated effluent at Upstream only. The Project Proponent can lift the water of downstream. Due to this the river water will remain clean. The Project Proponent's ZLD promise is misleading and false. The information regarding scrubber is also false.

Chairman, Public Hearing Committee here remarked that Advocate AsimSarode has raised very important issues. The issues are noted.

3) **Shri Ashok Changdev Borde, Resident of Warigaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar -**

The company is doing very good work. If any worker or local person faces any serious hurdle/problem, the Project Proponent help him/her.

Shri Ashok Borde further informed that the project proponent used to arrange medical camp, it should be again arranged. The company is providing water to whole village.

Hence, the company should grow 10 times more. He further appealed that the fees of Shri Rameshwar Vidyalay students fees also be paid by the Project Proponent.

4) **Shri Ramesh Bhagwat Teke, Resident of Wari village, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar**

Shri Ramesh Teke informed that he is staying just 500 meters from the project site. The ash which is generated through boiler, gases released at night and drinking water sources are polluted. We have submitted to complaints to MPCB office. All are pending. Due to COVID, MPCB told us that it is not necessary for us to come and we will take your case but no action was taken.

Without resolving the problems faced by us, we will oppose the expansion. This should be noted. Otherwise, informing before MPCB officers, we will AtmaDahan / Self-Immolation in front of the factory.

5) **Shri Rajendra Kachru Gaikwad, Resident of Wari village, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar –**



The Project and the village, both are two sides of single coin. As there is Gaon/village, hence there is project. And as there is project, the village has new identity. The factory management do help the needy people and needy students. The project is providing water supply to whole village. Also the expenditure of last rites is also spent by the factory. He requested the management of the company that -

The Somaiya Group just as started college at Mumbai, it should be started in this village also. Here, there is urgent need of most advanced hospital. The project management helped for the supply of drinking water. Here, Member of the Public Hearing Committee appealed to raise only environmental issues only. He said that we support the expansion, as local people get more job opportunities. If anyone else has problem it is their individual problem

6) **Shri Himmatrao Rangnath Bhujang, Ex. Sarpanch, Wari village, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist-Ahmednagar-**

Shri Himmatrao Rangnath Bhujang, informed that most of the participants have raised many suggestions and objections. I herewith inform that Project Proponent has developed very decent green belt development, We will add in the green belt and to increase the level of Oxygen, we will plant more trees.

We support the project.

7) **Shri Dattatray Laxman Teke, Resident of Wari Village, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar**

The Project Proponent are always vigil about the environment. Last year, they have given 3,500 tree guards. Tree plantation will reduce pollution. The Project Proponent do help the needy students of the village. The students who scored more 75% of marks are extended financial help industry should increase the same and give motivation. The medical camps should be increased. We support the project.

8) **Shri Jalinder Namdeo Jagtap, Resident of Kanhegaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist-Ahmednagar -**

As a local villager, I pledge that due to this project, the development of our village occurred. The Project Proponent has very nicely developed the green belt development. The project management is trying hard to control the pollution. We all support the expansion.



9) Shri Sanjaykumar Punamchand Thakur, Resident of Sakarwadi, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar –

I got the job in this company through ITI. The project management have sponsored us to ITI to complete the course, given the stipend and after completion, given job opportunities in the company. Due to expansion, there is will chances of job opportunities and needy persons will get the jobs. Hence, we support the project.

10) Shri Dilip Bapurao Deshmukh, Resident of Sakarwadi, Taluka-Kopargaon, Dist.: Ahmednagar

Shri Dilip Deshmukh informed that project proponent also promised to recycle and reuse the treated effluent in the process only. It will also be used for green belt development also. Here many thousand people are getting bread and butter due to this project. The Project Proponent also help to complete social responsibility projects.

Here, few people also objected for pollution. This is note that many industries have been commissioned in various places. There some problems have to face. We have here planted large number of trees.

Shri Dilip Deshmukh further remarked that if the Government is levying Road Tax, then how the company will repair the road. If the road is to be repaired and renovated by the company, then Government should waive the road tax of the company. The provision of supply of drinking water, medical aid facilities is the duty of the Government. Even though, the Karkhana do help all in emergency situation.

We support the project for expansion.

11) Ms. Rajashree Rajesh Tribhuvan, Resident of Sakarwadi village, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar –

Shri Rajashree Tribhuvan while supporting the expansion informed that sons and daughters of local villagers have to go Kopargaon and Shrirampur for further studies. Due to exertion, the local students get fatigue and sick. Here no good hospital is here. So in this village, further education facilities should be made available. She appealed that the project should also be brought, in which women will also get an opportunity to work.

We support the project.



12) **Ms. Rupali Anil Vispute, Resident of Sakarwadi village, Tal- Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar –**

Many women in the area are just sitting at home. Hence, the project should be brought in which there will be chances of getting jobs to women also. We support the expansion of the project.

Chairman, Public Hearing Committee here informed that those who desire to give their writing objections, suggestions can also submit it as there will be few people, we cannot raise orally can submit their objections in writing.

13) **Shri Jalinder Bhausaheb Shirsath, Resident of Warigaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar -**

Shri Jalinder Shirsath asked the question to MPCB that last year, Show Cause Notice was served to Project Proponent. Now, which Environment Programme is undertaken by the Company that you are conducting the public hearing for expansion?

14) **Shri Sandip Rambhau Raktate, Local Agriculturist - Kokamthan**

The Project Proponent has planted many trees considering the environment. The green belt also should be developed. We support the expansion of the project.

Chairman, Public Hearing Committee here informed that those who desire to give their writing objections, suggestions can also submit it as there will be few people, we cannot raise orally can submit their objections in writing.

15) **Shri Ashok Tatyaba Kajawe, Resident of Kanhegaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar -**

We support the expansion of the project. The project should come in the rural areas and they should be expanded. The private industries does not start its operation in rural areas. Hence, the old projects which are in operation should be allowed for expansion.

16) **Shri Sanjay Subhash Jadhav, Resident of Warigaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar, Member, Wari Grampanchayat -**

Where this project will be commissioned? How much water will be required for the project? How will the water be stored? From which source the water will be brought? How much energy/power will be requiring for this project?

Almost all the villagers are supporting the project. The project proponents are taking in hand the various social development projects. The local people will get job opportunities.

He said that the project management is requested to give fees of the students of Rameshwar Vidyalaya. It is also requested to repair the school classes. Industry does a lot for the people.

Shri Sanjay Jadhav further remarked that most of the officers working in the plant stays out of this village. It is requested to them to stay here. It will be beneficial to village also.

We support the project.

17) Shri Charudatta Raghunath Singar, Resident of Bhojade, Tal – Kopergaon, Dist – Ahmednagar

Shri Charudatta Raghunath Singar informed that I am speaking as representative of Bhojadegaon. Our village is 3.0-4.0 km. away. Whether due to this project, there will not be any water or air pollution? We say that due to this project, there are ill-effects on water, air and crops of our village. Hence, we are opposing the expansion of the project.

Shri Singar further objected that the public notice for the expansion is given in the Pune Sakal newspaper. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the newspaper are not reaching to our village. People are afraid as we do not know what this project is. Hence, first the resolution of each Grampanchayat should be obtained and then only this project should be sanctioned.

18) Shri Daulat Kishor Waikar, Local Agriculturist - Wariagon

Shri Daulat Waikar objected that the bore well water of our village is totally contaminated since last 50-60 years. The villagers do not have water to drink. We have to contact the company officials several times. He said that company should make provision to clean our bore wall water. First, plan should be prepared for drinking water of our village and then only the expansion should be carried.

Our opposition is towards the expansion of the project. The Project Proponent do release their effluent into the river. Whether MPCB has given permission to release its effluent into the river? We have given proof and submitted to MPCB. But no action is initiated by the MPCB.



He said that first stop the pollution. First think about local agriculturists. The trucks of the project do go on the road at any odd hours. If anybody is eating, the dust due to trucks naturally comes in the plate. The problem of local farmers should be solved first. Then only expansion be allowed. You imagine yourself at our position, when red water comes in your fields, no yield[crops] is generated you will feel like doing suicide. We don't have any other option than suicide. We need to either become terrorist or do suicide these are the only options left. Think of yourself at our position. Hence expansion should not be allowed.

19) **Shri Sunil Rangnath Kajale, Resident of Kanhegaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar -**

Shri Kajale said that we are Projected Affected Persons (PAPs). The effluent of this project have drown in the ground about 200 feet. It is not yet cleaned. We do not have separate water source for drinking water.

Shri Kajale said that we are 20-25 farmers are here. The Government should supply us drinking water. In the month of May, the officials came and carried the survey. Till to-date, the survey report is not send to us. We have to cultivate grapes. I own a land about 500m from here. But there is red water in the agriculture fields. I want to grow grapes but due to this nothing can be cultivated in our fields. Due to this red water we are not able to understand, we request you to clean the water. We have no relation towards the project. Our water should be cleaned first. Our drinking and agriculture water first be cleaned.

20) **Shri Shrikant Narendra Tekera, Warigaon, Dist -Ahmednagar**

I am staying on the boundary of the factory. My well water is contaminated. The water from the project has entered/mixed in my well. There is no issue that I want job in the factory. I have enough fields through which I can manage my livelihood. I can develop the same and can earn money equal to 2 engineers and can give job to 4 people. This can be my situation. But the water of my well is totally contaminated due to industry. Even though the well water is good the industry has provided water from tanker and the bill for the same is not yet paid.

He further said that what is directed by the National Green Tribunal is it informed to the villagers? The National Green Tribunal told that the industry has contaminated the water upto 2 km. These details should be explained by the industry to villagers. I wanted to start my dehydration plant in my farm but did not know whether to do potato chips or banana chips. in same way we don't know about the industry. We request to

give the entire details of the factory and solve our problems. Till you don't solve the problems we will oppose the expansion.

21) Shri Dnyeshwar Ambadas Bhakarar, Resident of Kanhegaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar -

I have a 9 acer area beside industry. I have one bore in that area where red water was obtained. I made water tank in which also red water has come that water was pumped out by industry using engine. After which I put plastic paper and other after which I took water from river. The polluted red water is observed around the water tank. My 1.5 acre corn yield is burnt what should I do? I have given complaints to company on time to time nothing is done from company. I just want that the company should do something to clean that water. It is requested to clean the water. We oppose the expansion.

22) Shri Bhagaw Rajdhar Mahale, Local Farmer - *Sakarwadi*

Due to expansion of the project, there will be chances of job opportunities. Hence, I support the project.

23) Shri Ashok Gabaji Kajale, Resident of Kanhegaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist - Ahmednagar -

Shri Ashok Kajale informed that my agriculture fields are zero distance away. He said that my compound place and company's compound is adjacent. He informed that he dug the well in his fields in 1990. The red water was observed in the well. I am fighting since 1990. My total agriculture field has become barren. This is also approved by Mahatma Krushi University. Water testing was done and even they agreed. Even court agreed over the same. We went to National Green Tribunal and I'm one of the complainants from them. National Green Tribunal also accepted that totally land and water of 2 km. is totally contaminated. Due to this the reason for living is finished. As Modi government provided Rice and Wheat we survived or else their would have been a big problem. The entire yield is destroyed due to pollution caused by industry. How will our children survive is a big question. Pollution is created to such an extent that no yield is grown from that land. Under this remediation activity even my well is there, a big pond is excavated. We request you to provide the rules about how big the pond should be created. Company is not doing anything for remediation only the pipelines are kept scattered. They call MPCB, and when MPCB says they will be coming tomorrow they put the clean water in the well on that dday. So after texting the water the results come like my well water is clean.



The chairman can carry out test the well water now. I'm telling the truth. After using the stored water for the farm created for my cattle, the yield is burst out, nothing is left in it. In such way these people are creating trouble. MPCB has given I written that the industry is giving trouble to the people in such condition if the permission is given for expansion which will be carried out besides us, company cannot reduce the pollution. Industry had asked for 3 years permission for Bioremediation from National Green Tribunal. On 31st December 2020, 4 years will be completed but there is no difference caused. The condition is same as that it was in 1990. In such condition if the permission is to be given for expansion think if the pollution will be reduced or increased. Think of all the things, our source of living is finished, how will we get yield from our farm for survival? Think about How will well water get clean? Industry should do something to make our well water clean. We don't have any complaint. We will survive doing hard work. After cleaning this water the permission shall be given for expansion. We oppose the expansion.

24) **Shri Gorakhnath Kondiram Teke, Resident of Warigaon, Tal-Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

If the expansion is implemented, then there will be chances of job opportunities. Hence, expansion should be allowed.

25) **Shri Vivek Ashokrao Teke, Member, Grampanchayat Warigaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

Shri Vivek Teke informed that he is opposing the expansion. Because due to project there is air and water pollution. The two blasts which made local people to run one's life in one's hand. Due to this project, if there would have social and economical development, then the population of the village would not have decreased in last 2 years from 12,000 to 7,000.

Hence, expansion should not be allowed. I oppose the expansion.

26) **Shri Badrinath Balsaheb Jadhav, Ex. Sarpanch, Warigaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar:-**

The Project Proponent should take care of land, water and health. The 80% jobs should be reserved for Wari village only. The saplings plantation should be carried in the area. The Medical camps should arrange twice in a year. Shri Baliram Jadhav requested to provide computer to Rameshwar Vidyala and pay the fees of students. He further requested that ICU Bedded hospital be constructed here. Local resident to

be given jobs. As per 2016-17 trees should be given for plantation. Road repairing to be done. Health check up to be held twice a year. We support expansion.

27) Shri Anil Appasaheb Gore, Member Grampanchyat, Wari village, Tal-Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar -

Whatever promises are made should be fulfilled by the company. The demand of the local people should be sanctioned by the company. He supported the expansion.

28) Shri Dilip Kakale, Member of Gram Panchyat, Warigaon, Tal: Kopargaon

People will get employment. He support expansion

29) Shri Vijay Kachru Gaikwad, Member of Gram Panchyat, Warigaon;

Industry should think about the demand of Warigaon. We support expansion

30) Shri Appasaheb Jaggannath Wani

A way should be found out, Employment should be provided for locals. We support expansion. To develop Wari village Geographical, financial , social it is necessary for the project to grow.

31) Shri Santosh Karbhari Ushir, WariGaon

Industry should think about the demands. We support expansion

32) Shri Yogesh Ramesh Bojage, Residence- Dhotre

Employment should be obtained. He support expansion.

33) Shri Deepak Prakash Chaudhary, Kanhegaon, Tal – Kopargaon, Dist – Ahmednagar-

Company is providing water since past 20 years. Provision shell be made that everyone gets water. Company is spending 20lakhs rps on water. Helps poor people. He supported for the expansion.

34) Shri Raju Jadhav, Warigaon;

Support expansion.

35) Shri Shirish Keshavrao Kulkarni, Ex. Gram Panchyat, Warigaon

Government invites industries for business but in our case the business it generated itself. He Support expansion.

36) Shri Sanjay Balkrishna Bhadange, Kanhegaon, Tal: Kopargaon, Dist: Ahmednagar



Support expansion. They have remarked that whatever there may be personal differences, we should support the expansion. Employment will be obtained.

37) **Shri Ajit Vinchu , Kanhegaon**

Employment will be obtained. Support expansion.

38) **Shri Sham Nivrutti Jadhav, Warigaon;**

Support expansion.

39) **Shri Krishna Khawale, Warigaon**

Employment will be obtained. Support expansion.

40) **Shri Yogesh Keru Mokal, Wari :-**

He asked about the Rain Water Harvesting and Remedial Plan. He supported the Expansion

41) **Yogesh Kekane**

Support for the expansion. Industry has done tree plantation time to time. They have also installed ETP and STP for treatment.

42) **Pramod Sainath Chavan, Dhotre**

Support for the expansion

43) **Deepak Bhakre, resident of Kanhegaon, Member of Gram Panchyat**

Industry should have given information to Grampanchayat which is not done. Support for the expansion. Industry shall repair roads upto 3-4kms

44) **Shankar Bhiwaji Tribhuvan, Resident of Sakarwadi**

Support for the expansion

45) **Sanjay Namdeo Dandage, Resident of Sakarwadi**

Support for the expansion

46) **Sandip Dilip Kakale, Resident of Sakarwadi**

Its our third generation working in this company. Industry shall bring more and more projects which will generate employment, He Support for the expansion

47) **Sanjay Anandrao Teke, Resident of Sakarwadi**

Industry shall grow, employment shall be generated. This growth is beneficial for future generation. He Support for the expansion

48) **Bapusaheb Rambhau Nile, Resident of Wari**

There is no other medium for job other than this industry. Support for the expansion

49) **Kiran Shankar Tribhuvan, Resident of Sakarwadi**

Support for the expansion

50) **Gorakh Vinchu, Resident of Kanhegaon**

Support for the expansion

51) **Akhilesh Ramesh Rajput, Resident of Wari**

Industry has installed ETP, STP, MEE and are also planting number of trees. Industry shall give information over the same to the local.

Support for the expansion

52) **Nitin Prakashrao Karde, Resident of Kanhegaon**

Support for the expansion

53) **Shri. Sandiprao Saint, Resident of Wari**

Support for the expansion

54) **Shri Sandip Suresh Jadhav, Resident of Wari**

Industry shall open an English medium school in Wari the same like in Kopargaon so that our children can even read English. We Support for the expansion only industry shall look towards the school and repair roads

55) **Shri. Vitthal Balasaheb Jadhav, Resident of Wari**

Support for the expansion

56) **Shri. Ganesh Suresh Jadhav, Resident of Wari**

Support for the expansion

57) **Shri. Rakesh Varghude, Resident of Sanvatsar**

Support for the expansion

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the objections, suggestions raised during the meeting have been noted and objections received in writing in this meeting as well as to MPCB offices by email also will be submitted along with minutes of the meeting and Final Environment Impact Assessment Report to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly.

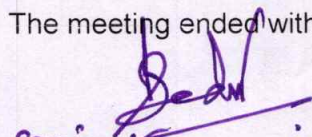
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Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all to raise any suggestions, objections regarding environmental angle of the project. There was no response from the participants.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee to conclude the meeting.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the objections, suggestions received during the meeting are noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting and will be submitted with Final Environment Impact Assessment Report to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly.

The meeting ended with thanks to Chair.



(Sanjay Redasni)

Convener, Environment Public
Hearing Committee
and
I/c Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Ahmednagar



(Amar Durgule),

Member, Environment Public
Hearing Committee
and
I/c Regional Officer,
MPCB, Nashik



(Sandeep Nichit),

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Additional District Magistrate, Ahmednagar,
District - Ahmednagar