

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED
ESTABLISHMENT OF MOLASSES/CANE JUICE BASED DISTILLERY
UNIT OF 105.0 KLPD PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S
SHRI DATTA INDIA PVT. LTD., GAT NO.65/2, 69 & 74, POST -
SAKHARWADI, TAL -PHALTAN, DIST-SATARA (415522),
MAHARASHTRA

The public hearing for proposed establishment of Molasses/Cane Juice Based Distillery unit of 105.0 KLPD proposed by Project Proponent M/s Shri Datta India Pvt. Ltd., Gat No.65/2, 69 & 74, Post - Sakharwadi, Tal -Phaltan, Dist-Satara, Maharashtra was conducted on 08th October, 2020 at the site of the said industry at 11.30 a.m.

Following were the panel members as per Board's Office Order No. E- 50 of 2020 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 201001-FTS-0026, dated 01/10/2020:-

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| 1) District Magistrate-Satara
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune
(Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board) | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Satara | Convener |

Shri L. S. Bhad, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Satara 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 projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. The Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Satara was in receipt of application of M/s Shri Datta India Pvt. Ltd., Gat No.65/2, 69 & 74, Post - Sakharwadi, Tal -Phaltan, Dist-Satara for proposed establishment of Molasses/Cane Juice Based Distillery unit of 105.0 KLPD at the existing site.

The Convener further informed that, as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A 5 (g) (i) & (g) (ii). The aim of

conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to the MoEFCC, Gol for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies on 10-05-2020 and MoEFCC, Gol, New Delhi considered the project and given online approval on 29-06-2020.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published in the local newspapers in Daily Sakal for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Indian Express for English on 09-09-2020. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed establishment of Molasses/Cane Juice Based Distillery unit of 105.0 KLPD.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available at various notified offices of Government i.e. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001; District Magistrate Office, Satara; Zilla Parishad Office, Satara; District Industries Centre Office, Satara; Tahsildar Office- Phaltan, Dist- Satara; Grampanchayat office at Sakharwadi, Tal-Phaltan, Dist- Satara; Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Satara;; Regional Office, MPCB, Pune and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and on the website of MPCB. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the proposed new distillery project. The Convener further informed that two objections/complaints are received by local MPCB Office, Satara. He appealed Chairman of the Committee to allow to start the proceedings.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Project Environment Consultant gave the presentation on Environment Management Plan of the project.

Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent informed that the proposed establishment unit of distillery has an investment of Rupees 80.0 crores. The project is ZLD (i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge). He informed various pollution control devices and Environment Management Plan.

After the presentation, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee appealed the participants to raise their suggestions, objections regarding Environment Management Plan of the project.

FOLLOWINGS HAVE PARTICIPATED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWER GIVEN BY PROJECT PROPONENT/CONSULTANT :-

- 1) Shri Sanjay Sadashiv Jadhav, Resident of Hol village, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

How much alcohol will be produced per day from the project?

Project Environment Consultant informed that Rectified Spirit (Basic Alcohol) of 1,05,000.0 litres/day will be made. From Rectified Spirit (Basic Alcohol), Ethanol, ENA will be made and after fermentation 1,05,000.0 litres/day Alcohol will be produced.

- 2) Shri Santosh Sakhararam Bhosale, Resident of Sakharwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

The spent wash will be produced in this process. How it will be disposed of?

Project Environment Consultant answered that spent wash cannot be thrown outside the project. The spent wash will be converted into powder form. The project of converting spent wash into powder form will be installed in this plant only. Nearly 100.0 Ton spent wash powder will get. It will be the best organic fertiliser, which will be made available to local farmers.

- 3) Shri Dilip Nanasaheb Bhosale, Resident of Hol Village, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

The waste water will be generated in the project. How it will be disposed of?

Project Environment Consultant answered that the waste water will be created in the process. It will not be generated outside the factory. It will be treated in the plant and after treatment, it will be recycled and reused in the process only. Not a drop of treated effluent will go outside the project. Due to this, we will save 80% of water.

- 4) Shri Balasaheb Tukaram Jadhav, Resident of Pimpalwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

Whether workers will suffer due to noise pollution?

Project Environment Consultant informed that the noise level in the factory premises will be less than 50 dB(A). Hence the workers working in the factory will suffer due to noise pollution.

5) Shri Nitin Babanrao Bhosale, Resident of Sakharwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

Due to this project, how much benefits farmers and people residing near the project will get and how much manpower will require for the project?

Environment Consultant requested Project Proponent to give answer. Project Proponent remarked that very nice and most desirable question is raised.

Project Proponent informed that in the project the sons of local farmers who fulfils the educational qualification will be given job opportunities. There is no doubt about it. The potash powder which will be produced in the plant can be used as manure. It will be made available to local farmers upto their fields. It will increase the fertility of the land and production will also increase.

6) Shri Ravikiran Kisanrao Bhosale, Sakharwadi, Tal-Phaltan, Dist - Satara :-

The people residing the vicinity of the project still suffer due to ash produced in the project.

Also the water which is used for cleaning, mixes in small canal/Odha. The waste water of the sugar factory also meets the small canal/Odha. We have sent many complaint letters to MPCB and local District Administration.

Environment Consultant asked whether they are suffering due to boiler ash? He expressed the opinion that people have suffered due to old plant. We are not denying that local people staying nearby the project have suffered a lot.

But now new technology and new boilers are available. The New Management has recently taken over the full charge of the factory. It is already promised by the New Management that sugar factory and distillery project will work hand in hand. We have to send the report in every six months. We are requesting all to us time and opportunity for the upgradation in the system.

Shri Ravikiran Bhosale again objected that we suffer due to waste water, ash, smell from the factory. We suffer due to flies which comes with waste water.

Here Project Environment Consultant informed that we will prepare a Planning Outline which will be given to local people. We request all to give us an opportunity to work and upgrade our system. In this context, the active participation of all local people will be beneficial for the project.

7) Shri Sanjay Bhosale, Sakharwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara:-

Since last so many years, the waste water is discharged in our sugarcane fields. Our sugarcane crop is totally burnt. We have sent several complaints to the factory. Nothing is done. Now, at this moment also the water of the tank is released. We are not against the project, but whatever we are facing personal troubles should be avoided. We have always co-operated. Now see the present situation.

Project Environment Consultant informed that mistakes were done in the past. The previous sufferings will be also be noted. As informed just now, the Planning Outline will be prepared. We can constitute a Joint Implementing Committee comprising of representative of the management, two representatives of the local people who suffer due to pollution of this factory, Environment Consultant. An Action Plan will be prepared, in which suggestions will be incorporated.

At this time, Shri Sanjay Bhosale objected that why our complaints are not included in the Environment Impact Assessment Report?

The Additional District Magistrate-Satara and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here suggested that an official be sent to the complainant's house, investigate the matter and his difficulties be solved immediately.

Environment Consultant here informed that within 2-3 weeks, the survey will be carried and report will be submitted accordingly. Shri Sanjay Bhosale demanded survey be carried immediately. Environment Consultant informed that sampling kit will require which is not brought.

8) Shri Mahadev Bhosale, Resident of Pimpalwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

Shri Mahadev Bhosale said that we have suffered since last 20-25 years. Now Project officials are releasing the waste water since last 10-12 days. Due to which, I am suffering by skin irritation. If allowed, I am ready to remove my shirt. I have 15 acres of agriculture fields which the adjacent to the factory. The grass grows due to waste water. It is also not removed by the factory. As we suffer, we registers the complaint. My son is removed from the factory. I do not want single rupees from anybody. But let us live. The waste water discharge in our fields should be stopped. Our loss should be compensated. We have sent photo proof complaints and

made the management to prepare the Panchanama. The waste water should be stopped.
At this moment, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the complaint is noted. But if written complaint is sent, then the survey will be carried and further action will be initiated.

9) Shri Kisanrao Bhosale, Senior Citizen, Senior Correspondent, Social Worker:-

Many people have raised the questions. Presentation is given the Environment Consultant of the project. Though nobody is opposing the project, the discussions, interaction is important. We came here for the discussions. Though many points are discussed, I am raising some points, perhaps some points will be repeated again -

- 1) What is the aim of the Ethenol project,
- 2) Which social component will be benefited,
- 3) What will be the effects of the project on farmers who are staying on the small canal/odha, social components, birds and animals and on society,
- 4) whether agriculture fields and water will be polluted,
- 5) The profit and loss of the farmers due to polluted water,
- 6) Due to production activities, effects on air, various social components, birds and animals – detailed information required,
- 7) Whether interaction is carried with local people, social institutions before preparation of the project,

Shri Kisanrao Bhosale informed that he is Senior Citizen, Senior Correspondent. He was Chairman of the Taluka Patrakar Sangh. It does not mean that I am opposing the project. I am watching the factory since my childhood. I am staying on the small canal/odha. We have cows and buffaloes. My sisters and mothers from our village do come to wash clothes on the small canal/odha. How you will give justice to these social components. As survey is carried while preparing the EIA, then whether discussions were held with social institutions and their representatives? It is observed that this is not done. If a person is staying near the wall/fencing of the project, why the survey is not carried there? The adjoining people have suffered a lot in the post. Hence, they are expressing their emotions and anger.

Shri Kisanrao Bhosale Environment Consultant informed that waste water will be treated and it will be recycled and reused in the process. Whether this will happen? A molasses-based distillery is commissioned at Nira. Now water source from Nira to Pandharpur is totally polluted. Previously, water melon and musk melon crops

used to grow. There were many families were staying who were depending upon fishing business. Now due to pollution, fishing is totally stopped and water melon and musk melon crops are also vanished.

Hence, it is requested that the copy of the presentation be made available to the participants. If the company does not fulfil the promises, then we will be able to register the complaint. The local young man and girls needs job. Hence project should come in the area.

But while carrying survey, all the social elements and social institutions should have discussed for the present need.

Environment Consultant informed that the suggestions raised by Respected Kisanrao Bhosale are noted. As informed by Shri Bhosale, social assessment is necessary. While carrying survey, the population of the village is taken into account as per the directives. The information is sought. It is not possible to go and visit every household. The survey is carried as per the parameters specified by the Central Government.

It is mandatory to us to submit the Performance Report in every six months. The effect of a project does happen in the 10 k.m. radius. Now while giving suggestions, Shri Bhosale asked who will monitor and who will give the results and report, whether we will have to go several times to the offices?

Now this is to inform that Online Monitoring is carried by the MPCB. A system is adopted by the MPCB, which can be used by any citizen.

Environment Consultant informed that if any incidence happens, in few hours, MPCB officials visits the site. The total information is available on the website. Central Government has also given priority for online monitoring. Now people have became aware. The technology and working pattern is totally changed. This project will be ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge). Not a single drop of treated effluent will go outside the factory. The report as submitted by the Environment Consultant in every six months is made available to public.

Shri Kisanrao Bhosale informed that the information on modern technology is nicely given. But everybody is not at all familiar with this system. Here some people have raised the trouble of pollution before Environment Public Hearing Committee. It should be solved.

But the information should be known to common man of the village. You have published an advance public notice in the local newspaper. But it was necessary that on loudspeaker, the beat

would have carried. The common man staying in the village should know. The Environment Consultant should keep his commitment to our Society.

Environment Consultant informed that the suggestions given by Respected Kisanrao Bhosale are noted and discussions will be made with Project Proponent.

10) Shri Damodar Gulabrao Bhosale, Resident of Sakharwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

He informed that he stays just 3 k.m away from the project. The waste water of the factory comes in our fields and also mixed in the wells.

Environment Consultant informed that this point is already discussed. After discussions with Project Proponent, the survey will be carried of the wells, agriculture fields.

11) Shri Kishor Pawar, Resident of Sakharwadi, Tal-Phaltan, Dist - Satara :-

The fuel will be used for the boiler. Then whether air pollution will occur and what steps will be taken?

Project Environment Consultant informed that spent wash will not be burnt in the project. It will converted into Powder form. It is best manure. Separate boiler is required for burning of spent wash. There will not any air pollution from the this project.

12) Shri Popatrao Vitthal Bhosale, Resident of Pimpalwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

He remarked that the farmers who are staying near the plant have raised their problems. There are other issues also. In other factories, due to spent wash only, there is problem. My village is near the project. If now modern technology is available, how the spent wash will be stored?

Environment Consultant informed that previously spent wash is used stored in the lagoons. Here only five days storage permission is allowed. The storage tank will be closed, RCC and inside it will have fibre coating lining. There is no chances of leakage.

13) Shri Shankarrao Matkar, Ex Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara

This factory is established in 1933. Then many incidences occurred. Now, new Project Proponent have taken the management. It is necessary that discussions should be carried before any new project.

Here, the pollution problem is discussed. The farmers who have suffered have raised certain issues. The issues are not wrong. Here

nobody opposed the project. The problems faced by the farmers were of the previous management.

Now if the distillery runs smoothly, the sugarcane will get good rate. Local people will job. Here in the discussions, it is revealed that pollution should not happen. Hence, it is suggested that Project Proponent should implement Environment Management Plan strictly.

Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any suggestion, objections regarding environmental angle.

14) Shri R.B. Bhosale, Resident of Pimpalwadi, Tal - Phaltan, Dist - Satara -

Shri Datta Pvt. Ltd., has purchased this Karkhana and within 7-8 months, they have shown their efficiency. From 1933-1975, the Sakharwadi was called as Modern Village. People are giving good wishes to the Project. The spent wash will be stored with fibre coating lining. Hence, there will not be any leakage. The Project Proponent should not generate pollution. MPCB is also requested to keep strict vigil.

Dr. J. B. Sangewar, Regional Officer-Pune and Member of the Public Hearing Committee asked -

As R.O. will be in operation, what treatment will be given to R.O. rejects?

Environment Consultant answered that water of R.O. Rejects will be sprayed on the ash, which is permitted. As it has High TDS, the doubt raised is absolutely right.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that in summer season it is OK but what about in rainy season?

Environment Consultant answered that the quantity of ash will not be a lot. As the hot water will be sprinkled, it will convert into steam.

b) As the sugar factory is old one, when the upgradation of air pollution control system will be implemented, as previously the surrounding people have suffered a lot.

Environment Consultant requested Project Proponent to give answer -

The Representative of the Project Proponent informed that - In this Distillery Project, we have planed to convert spent wash into powder form. Hence, not a single litre of spent wash will go outside the factory. Moreover, the spent wash cannot go outside. In the powder spent wash, the NPK ratio is large.

Hence, there is high demand for spent wash as Organic Manure.

The old system of storing of spent wash in lagoons is totally stopped. Project Proponent will not store one litre of spent wash in lagoon or in cement lagoon. The storage tank will be of RCC with fibre lining. Hence there will not be any leakage. Secondly, the waste water will be treated and it will be recycled and reused in the process. Not a single drop of effluent will go outside the factory.

Also the additional water from the sugarcane will be used in productions activities only. But the syrup which normally comes in sugar factory, will also be stopped.

Now here Member of the Public Hearing Committee asked about the upgradation of the Air Pollution Control System. We have planned the upgradation by two types.

- a) The present Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) will be upgraded. Anaerobic Digester will be provided. The additional water will be used in the process only;
- b) The old/previous errors will be removed. For this, we are going to take into confidence all who have suffered. As discussed, a Committee will be constituted. The proposal will be made considering all the complaints and Action Plan will be prepared. We are confident that we solve the problems 100%.

Convener, Public Hearing Committee informed in the meeting that Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Satara has received two objections. Convener read the objection of Shri Dhananjay Sampatrao Mahulkar, Satara Zilla Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana. He expressed the fear that due to proposed project, there is threat of water, air pollution.

Convener, Public Hearing Committee read another complaint received from Sakharwadi. 25 people have signed the complaint.

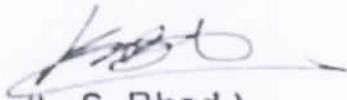
Convener, Public Hearing Committee informed that the complaints will be submitted to Central Government. Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any suggestion, objection regarding the project, there was no response.

Shri Sunil Thorve, Additional District Magistrate, Satara and Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee asked Convener of the Public Hearing Committee to conclude the meeting.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the objections, suggestions raised during the meeting by the participants will be included in the minutes of the meeting. It will be submitted alongwith Final EIA to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. The Expert Committee will take the decision accordingly.

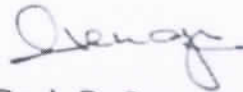
Convener thanked all for attending the meeting and on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, he declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

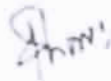


(L. S. Bhad)

Convener, Environment Public
Hearing Committee
and
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Satara



(Dr.J. B. Sangewar),
Member Environment Public
Hearing Committee
and
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Pune



(Sunil Thorve),
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
and
Additional District Magistrate, Satara
Dist - Satara