

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING OF 64 SAND GHATS IN
BHANDARA DISTRICT DATED 23.11.2022.TIME 12.00 PM**

Environmental Public Hearing of proposed 64 Sand Ghats in Bhandara District Vadegaon (Ritti) (3.6 Ha), Mandvi (3.5 Ha), Kothurna (1.62 Ha), Juni Takdi (4 Ha), Yenoda (1.25 Ha), Junona (3 Ha), Bhojapur (3 Ha), Gudegaon (4 Ha), Pauni (3.9 Ha), Shivnada (4 Ha), Valni (4 Ha), Khatkheda (3 Ha), Vilam (2 Ha), Itgaon (3.9 Ha), Kurza (1.2 Ha), Chargaon (3.99 Ha), Bramhni (3.5 Ha), Sukdi (De.) (2 Ha), Lobhi (1.15 Ha), Tamsvadi (4 Ha), Panjara (Re.) (4 Ha), Umarvada (4 Ha), Mandvi (4 Ha), Warpindkepar (3 Ha), Sondya (4 Ha), Chandmara (3 Ha), Asti/Aajan Vihri (1.57 Ha), Sakkardara (Dhanod) (1.5 Ha), Betada South (3.91 Ha), Betada North (4.21 Ha), Nilaj Bu. (4 Ha), Nilaj Khu. (3.91 Ha), Dhivarwada (4 Ha), Mundri Bu. (3.5 Ha), Kanhadgaon (1.1 Ha), Devhada Khurd (1.41 Ha), Takdi (2.25 Ha), Pachgaon No.1 (1.2 Ha), Bothali (2.5 Ha), Mohgaon Devi (1.113 Ha), Watetekar (1.1 Ha), Salebardi (1.1 Ha), Sasra (1.1 Ha), Khandala (1.1385 Ha), Parsodi (Madeghat) (1.35 Ha), Parsodi (Aamrai) (1.17 Ha), Parsodi (Povartol) (2 Ha), Padsgaon (1.9 Ha), Miregaon (1.6 Ha), Vakal (2.47 Ha), Vihirgaon (1.2 Ha), Naravha (3 Ha), Mahegaon (2.45 Ha), Aasola (1.125 Ha), Lakhandur (1.1 Ha), Moharna (3.9 Ha), Nanded (3.74 Ha), Gavrada (4 Ha), Aantargaon/kha (1.1 Ha), Vihirgaon (1.12 Ha), Bhagdi (1.32 Ha), Khairna (1.15 Ha), Kholmara (1.2 Ha), Donad (3 Ha) Was conducted on Date 23.11.2022 Time 12.00 PM under the Chairman of Shir. Mahesh Patil, Additional District Magistrate Bhandara, Shri. Ashok Kare, Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur was the member of the public hearing panel Shir. S. V. Winchenkar Additional District Collector, Bhandara and Smt. Hema Deshpande, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhandara act as a convener. The Public Hearing started at 12.00 pm. with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Attendance of the People present during the Public Hearing is attached as (Annexure-I).

District Manning Officer, Collector Office, Bhandara vide Letter dtd.18.10.2022 has submitted proposal of 64 Sand Ghats in Bhandara district, which requires Environmental Clearance from the Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra. Head office of M.P.C. Board, vide letter dtd. 25.10.2022 had accorded approval to conduct public hearing procedure. Following guidelines stipulated under EIA Notification dated. 14 Sep 2006 amended dtd. 01.12.2009, Venue date and time was finalized after consultation with the District Magistrate, Bhandara. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head office vide letter No.MPB/JD(WPC)/PH/B-2211-FTS-50091 dtd.10.11.2022 Issued office order to conduct public Hearing at Planning Building, Collector Office Bhandara dtd. 23.11.2022 at 12.00 noon under the chairmanship of District Magistrate or his representation not below rank of Additional District Magistrate.

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Advertise of the said public Hearing was published in English daily "The Hitvada" & Marathi daily "Deshonatti" dtd. 22.10.2022 with thirty days period to receive objections of the concerns. (Annexture-2)

Executive summary in English and Marathi with soft copy were placed at following offices for information and study by the people.

1. District Collector Office, Bhandara.
2. M.P.C. Board, Kalptaru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion- Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-22.
3. Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
4. Department of Environment, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor Madam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
5. District Mining Office, Bhandara.
6. Regional Office (Western Central Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur -440001.
7. Zilla Parishad, Bhandara.
8. Sub-Divisional Offices of above mentioned Talukas.
9. Tahsil Offices of above mentioned Talukas.
10. Related Grampanchayat Offices.
11. Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board: www.mpcb.gov.in

One Representation was received during Public Hearing (Annexure-3)

Environmental Public Hearing proceeding started at 12.00 noon after due permission of the chairman Convener Hema Deshpande during her introductory speech explained procedure of public hearing and cleared that, public hearing committee doesn't have right to recommend or to approve project. The proceeding of public hearing along with received written objections/memorandums and video recording will be submitted to the Ministry for further needful action. No objections were received before Public Hearing.

She invited Mining Department, Collector Office, Bhandara Representative to give power point presentation of proposed sand ghat projects.

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Project Proponent, District Mining Officer Bhandara Shri. R. L. Gajbhiye said in his Introductory speech that they are planning to auction sand ghats in Bhandara district for the year 2022-23. Sand is the main material for infrastructure development. As per EIA Notification-2006 prior environmental clearance is required to start mining of this sand. Therefore, public hearing is the preliminary stage as a process of EC. He called technical consultant to give detail presentation on the proposed Sand Ghat Proposal. Consultant had given detail power point presentation in marathi.

Following are the points discussed during the proceedings.

Chairman of Environmental Public Hearing Pannel appealed participants to introduce them selves by telling name, address and designation before keeping their points

PROCEEDINGS :-

1. Shri. Nandu Rahangdale, Panchayat Samiti Tumsar.

- Local people should get cheap sand at cheap Rate from for construction of home under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
- Due to non-auction of sand, the price of sand is very high. So sand auction should be done as soon as possible.
- Roads are damaged due to sand transport, they are not repaired, Pandan roads are damaged due to which farmers are facing difficulty in farming. It has become difficult for many farmers to even do farming.
- Theft of sand from rivers bordering Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh has increased, draining government revenue.
- As mentioned in the presentation, there is no possibility of adverse impact on the environment if the mining is done, it is necessary to approve the proposal and conduct the auction of Sand Ghats.

2. Shri. Parvez Patel, Bhandara.

- At present sand theft is very much increased. All the rules are on the ghat holders. There is no restrictions on sand theft. Even with the efforts of the authorities, sand theft is increasing and the ghat owners are suffering from losses. My request is that permanent measures should be taken on this and the government should consider to stop the theft of sand by sanctioning the proposed Retighat project and holding an auction of sand as soon as possible.

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3. Smt. Seema Padole Pavani, Bhojapur Sarpanch

- Works are going on in our village under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and individual works are also going on. But due to lack of sand auction sand is not available so auction should be done as soon as possible.
- The incidence of sand theft is very high. The incidence of theft in the middle of the night has increased due to which people are suffering.
- Roads are becoming dilapidated due to traffic. Stealers are benefiting greatly. People in need are suffering. This theft should be stopped and sand auction should be done as soon as possible, sand should be made available to the householders.

4. Shri. Prabhakar Save, Sub-Sarpanch Mandvi

- In places where there are sand ghats where the roads have deteriorated to a large extent, Roads should be constructed at those places.
- It should be ensured that the transportation and mining of sand is done in accordance with the environmental management plan mentioned during the presentation, so that the pollution caused by the project will be controlled.

5. Shri. Anirudh Iswarkar Kothruna

- Enquired about area under excavation.
- It should be ensured that the area given for excavation does not adversely affect the river bed as well as the surrounding area.

6. Mr. Mayur Bisen, Business Alliance BJP Bhandara.

- At present the number of thieves has increased, due to which the environment is suffering, therefore the sand ghat should be auctioned as soon as possible.

7. Shri. Pravin Boke Gram Panchayat Juni Takli.

- All I can say is that sand transport is causing a lot of damage to the roads. The roads of our village are completely damaged, even after sending representations, the roads are not working.

The Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate Shri. Mahesh Patil appealed to discuss the issues related to the environment as the said public hearing is an environmental public hearing and hence participants should give emphasis on environmental issues of sand mining.

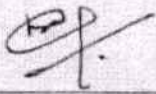
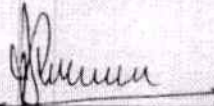
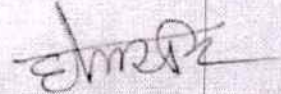
PROJECT PROPONENT :

Given following remark/clarification on the issues raised during discussions.

- A proposal will be sent to the government for providing a separate concrete road for sand transportation and action will be taken after approval.
- Government will try to provide sand for construction.
- As much area as proposed by Tehsildar will be given for sand mining.
- A proposal has been sent to the Govt. regarding grant of subsidiary mineral fund to the concerned Gram Panchayat. Action will be taken if approved.
- After sand auction, sand will be made available for government houses and other works.
- The villages which are going to be affected will be taken to the affected area and the road works will be done there.
- Villages whose roads are damaged should form a committee and send a proposal and the road works will be done from Mineral Development Fund on priority basis.
- Householders will get sand worth 5 brass.
- After receiving environmental clearance, one sand barge will be reserved for government work and housing under the vegetable scheme.
- Efforts will be made by the district administration to stop the thieves by setting up checkpoints through the police department.

Additional Collector, Bhandara

He reviewed the questions of the citizens present regarding the said project and the answers of the project proponents and said that the people present during public hearing quietly presented their statements and raised the right issues and they have been noted. It is important to do the work for the benefit of the people and the government. The Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee gave the presidential conclusion. Public hearing ended with thanks to chair and all present.

<p>(Mahesh Patil) Additional District Magistrate Bhandara & Chairman, Public Hearing Panel</p>	<p>(Ashok Kare) Regional Officer, MPC Board Nagpur & Member Public Hearing Panel</p>	<p>(Hema Deshpande) Sub-Regional MPC Board Bhandara & Convenor Public Hearing</p>
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