

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF SUGAR CANE CRUSHING CAPACITY FROM 5,000.0 TCD TO 12,000.0 TCD (INCREASE BY 7,000.0 TCD) & CO-GENERATION UNIT FROM 25.0 MW TO 60 MW (INCREASE BY 35.0 MW) & MOLASSES BASED DISTILLRY FROM 60.0 KLPD TO 200.0 KLPD (INCREASE BY 140.0 KLPD) USING C/B HEAVY MOLASSES/SUGAR CANE SYRUP AT GUT NO.160, AT POST - TURK PIMPRI, TALUKA - BARSHI, DISTRICT - SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S BABANRAOJI SHINDE SUGAR & ALLIED INDUSTRIES LIMITED, AT GUT NO.160, AT POST - TURK PIMPRI, TALUKA - BARSHI, DISTRICT - SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing for proposed expansion in existing unit of Sugar Cane Crushing Capacity from 5,000.0 TCD TO 12,000.0 TCD (INCREASE BY 7,000.0 TCD) & CO-GENERATION UNIT FROM 25.0 MW TO 60.0 MW (INCREASE BY 35.0 MW) & MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY FROM 60.0 KLPD TO 200.0 KLPD (INCREASE BY 140.0 KLPD) USING C/ B HEAVY MOLASSES/SUGAR CANE SYRUP at Gut No.160, At Post - Turk Pimpri, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur, Maharashtra proposed by Project Proponent M/s Babanraoji Shinde Sugar & Allied Industries Limited at Gut No.160, At Post - Turk Pimpri, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Tuesday, the 07th February, 2023 at 12.30 noon at project site.

Shri Nikhil Jalindar More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur and Member, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Sou. Shama Pawar, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

He appealed all to follow the strict guidelines of Central Government and State Government for COVID epidemic.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, 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.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Babanraoji Shinde Sugar & Allied Industries Limited, Gut No.160, At Post - Turk Pimpri, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur, Maharashtra to conduct Environment Public Hearing for proposed expansion in existing unit of Sugar Cane Crushing Capacity from 5,000.0 TCD TO 12,000.0 TCD (INCREASE BY 7,000.0 TCD) & CO-GENERATION UNIT FROM 25.0 MW TO 60.0 MW (INCREASE BY 35.0 MW) & MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY FROM 60.0 KLPD TO 200.0 KLPD (INCREASE BY 140.0 KLPD) USING C/B HEAVY



MOLASSES/SUGAR CANE SYRUP at Gut No.160, At Post - Turk Pimpri, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A schedule 5 (g) and 5 (j) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

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

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application on 08/04/2022 alongwith pre-feasibility report to the, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered and given online approval on 19/04/2022.

After approval from District Collector, Solapur to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 07th February, 2023 at 12.30 noon, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Public Hearing Panel vide Board's Office Order No. E- 05 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 230119 FTS- 0143 dated 19-01-2023 :-

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

As per the said Notification, 30 days advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur in the Local Newspaper in daily Sanchar in Marathi and in National Newspaper Indian Express in English on 05-01-2023. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under:-

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) District Collector, Solapur;
- 3) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur;
- 4) General Manager, District Industries Center, Solapur;
- 5) Block Vikas Adhikari, Panchayat Samiti, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur;
- 6) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Barshi, District - Solapur;
- 7) Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Offices - Mouje - Turk Pimpri, Hatkarwadi, Kapashewadi, Manegaon, Chavanwadi, Undargaon, Kevad, Jamgaon, Malvandi, District - Solapur;
- 8) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 032;
- 9) Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Mumbai;
- 10) Regional Officer, Regional Office-Pune, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Jog Center, 3rd Floor, Wakadewadi, Old Pune Mumbai Road, Pune - 411 003;
- 11) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur;
- 12) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai;

Convener informed that 05 written suggestions/ objections/ comments/ complaints for expansion of the project have been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur.

Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, suggestions, objections and has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairperson will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. He had requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project. He gave information about the geographical location of the proposed project, potential impact on the environment due to the proposed project, Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared for it,



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund and Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) Fund.

It is informed that Rupees 498 crores will have to spend for commissioning of the project. Project Proponent has ear-marked Rupees 3635 lakh as capital investment and Rs. 350 lakh for operational expenditure for environmental responsibility. The project is Zero Liquid Discharge Project.

After the presentation, Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to raise their suggestions, objections if any regarding the proposed project in environmental angel only. While raising the suggestions, objections, mention your name and village name while registering suggestions or objections.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environmental Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent/ Project Environment Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee :-

1) Shri. Dhanaji Vishnu Dhumal, Residence - Basti inbetween Turk Pimpri and Jamgaon, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur:

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	How are you going to procure the raw material required for this project?	Sugarcane is the raw material required for a sugar factory. It will be purchased from the local farmers in the area. Molasses is produced after crushing of the sugarcane. Molasses will be used in the distillery project. The bagasse which will remain after sugarcane sieving in the sugar factory will be used as raw material in the co-generation plant. Hence, sugarcane will be the raw material in this project. The same will be used for the distillery plant and co-generation plant
2)	What kind of trees will be planted while developing the green belt in the project?	Earlier there was no awareness to develop green belt. But in 2015-16, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) published a revised list that was published earlier in 2000. Accordingly, some wild trees and Jamun. , Palas, Vad. Trees like Pimpal, mango that are of ecological importance will be planted. They will be planted during the monsoon season. As per

		Rule, 33% green belt has to be developed. It has been planned.
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2) Shri. Kumar Shinde. At Post - Darfal, Tal - Madha, District - Solapur :-

No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	What will be the quality of wastewater generated in the production process during project expansion and what will be its impact?	Project Environmental Consultant while informing replied that if 1.0 ton of sugarcane is crushed for sugar production, 7-8 liters of waste water will be produced. Its quality is measured as per the parameters stipulated by MPCB. Now, as per the directives of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Online Continuous Monitoring System (OCMS) has been installed in the project. It is connected to the server of Central Pollution Control Board office at New Delhi and to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office at Mumbai. Therefore, the quality of sewage here is constantly checked. The waste water generated in the project is treated in the CPU (Condensate Polishing Unit) and it will be recycled and reused in the production process. Hence, not a single drop of water will go out of the project. The said project is a ZLD i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge project.
2)	Has the Project Management taken any decision for afforestation / green belt development in the area during expansion?	Environmental Consultant replied that this question is important. It is mandatory by law to reserve CSR and CER funds for the project. Project Proponent has prepared a plan to develop green belt in 5-6 villages of the vicinity. After discussing with the Village Panchayat, green belt will be developed in the waste land, open spaces, schools and hospitals. It has been planned and green belt development program



		will be undertaken. 3,000-3,500 trees will be planted in the area.
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3) Shri Nilesh Jalindar Kapse, At Post - Kapse Wadi, Tal- Madha, District - Solapur :-

Where the generated electricity in the expansion project will be used?

Project Environmental Consultant said that the power generation unit in the project is called co-generation unit. As per rules, power generation is done as per government contract. Accordingly, some part of the electricity produced is used in the factory and the remaining part is sent to the Government i.e. the power grid of the Maharashtra State Power Generation Company. The factory is not allowed to provide direct electricity to the consumers. It has to be sent to the power grid of Maharashtra State Electricity Company.

4) Shri Samadhan Suresh Naikwade, At Post - Undargaon, Taluka - Madha, District - Solapur :-

How much sugar cane crushing will be carried and how much sugar will be produced in the proposed project?

Project Environmental Consultant answered that currently 5,812.0 Ton of sugarcane will be crushed. So planning is not just sugar production as mentioned in the presentation. We will also use the sugar juice directly in the distillery plant. About 70.0 liters of Ethanol will be obtained by crushing one ton of sugarcane. According to this, for the production of 200.0 kilo liters per day, the sugar juice will be used directly in the distillery plant and the rest can be used for the production of sugar.

5) Shri Tanaji Dhanaji Landge, At Post - Manegaon, Taluka - Madha, District - Solapur

How the surrounding villages will be benefitted due to this project?

The raw material for this project i.e. sugarcane crop will be procured from the local farmers. Therefore, farmers will be encouraged to produce more sugarcane crop by the factory. The direct benefit of this project is that the project will create job opportunities. Only local people will be given job opportunities in the project. The sugar industry cannot survive on sugar production alone. Hence, by-products like Ethanol, Carbon-di-Oxide, Molasses can be sold. The Ethanol produced in the project is purchased by the Government of India. CO₂ produced in the production process can be sold to soft drink companies. Therefore, it will be possible for the Factory Administration to pay higher price for sugarcane crop to local farmers.

6) Shri Santosh Ashok Mirgane, At Post - Kevad, Tal-Madha, District - Solapur :-

Will the expansion project generate solid waste and how it will be disposed of?

Project will generate solid waste. The main solid waste in the project is ash from the production activities. One ton of bagasse burnt in a boiler in an operational plant produces 3% of ash. Ash from bagasse will be made available as fertilizer for agriculture activities. Spent wash incineration produces 17% ash. Another Organization will buy the ash from the factory and take it for potash recovery. After potash recovery, the ash will be used as fertilizer. Similarly, ETP sludge will be made available as fertilizer, this method is still going on.

7) Shri. Sagar Kaulage, At Post- Anjangaon, Taluka - Madha, District - Solapur :-

After expansion, how many days in a year will the Co-generation project will remain in operation?

The co-generation plant in the project will be expanded from 25.0 MW to 60.0 MW. A sugar factory runs for 150-160 days. Hence, considering the remaining bagasse quantity, the Co-generation project will run for about seven months.

8) Shri. Sudhir Shahaji Dhumal, Residence - Turk Pimpri, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur:

Can farmers use wastewater?

Sewage water can certainly be used by farmers. However, the waste water generated in the project will be treated in CPU, recycled and reused in the project itself as per the directives of Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Not a single drop of treated effluent from the project will go outside the project. Therefore, there is no plan to provide water to the farmers.

9) Shri. Raju Shelke, Residence - Turk Pimpri, Taluka - Barshi, District - Solapur:-

What measures will be initiated to control potential air pollution after the expansion?

Project Environment Consultant informed that as informed in the presentation for potential air pollution control, the boiler will be provided 70 meter height chimney equipped with a Electro-Static-Precipitator (ESP) system, which ensures 99.9% efficiency. This will trap the pollutants of the smoke. So, there will be no risk of air pollution.

10) Shri. Sunanda Reddy, an Environmentalist, Residence - Telangana State:-

I am supporting the project and wishing the Project Administration all the best for project expansion. Accordingly, I thank the company for appointing the said environmental consultant to prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. I am thankful to the Project Environment Consultant for properly surveying and preparing the EIA Report. I request the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi to approve the said project immediately.

As the said industry is a "Farmers' Friendly Industry," as a practical Environmentalist, I request the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,



Govt. of India, New Delhi if possible, please exempt such industries from the public hearing process, as public hearing is a big process and it takes 2-3 years.

I request the project administration that your 33% green belt development is appropriate and welcome. However, here I request that fruit bearing trees and medicinal value plants should be planted while developing the green belt. Similarly, Japanese style - Miyawaki Plantation should be done while developing the green belt. More than 4,000 trees are planted in one acre at Miyawaki Plantation. You can do that in your CSR budget.

Similarly, water conservation is an important one. I am requesting to constitute a "Co-ordination Committee" with Village Sarpanch, management and officials to spend the CSR fund properly. In their meeting, approval should be obtained to take in hand "Demand Oriented Work". Therefore, the company management will gain credibility.

I am requesting the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi to grant unconditional permission to this project.

Shri Reddy, who spoke in English, was presented in Marathi by the Environmental Consultant. He said that Shri Reddy suggested Miyawaki Plantation while developing green belt. Environmental consultant remarked that in Miyawaki Plantation we can do plantation and the species of trees are limited.

Environment Consultant further said that Shri Reddy has requested to form a Co-ordination Committee with the Village Sarpanch, management and officials. In their meeting, approval should be obtained to take up "Demand Oriented Work". Therefore, the company management will gain credibility. Shri Reddy has wished the project well.

11) Shri. Appasaheb Mirgan, At Post -Kevad, Taluka - Madha, District - Solapur :-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	What measures will be initiated regarding the noise pollution which will occur due to expansion of project?	<p>In a project, noise pollution is not caused by one aspect, but rather by a combination of aspects. Noise pollution occurs when boilers, turbines, other machinery are in operation. Sugar industry does not cause noise pollution like an engineering company. Therefore, the area outside the project will not suffer due to noise.</p> <p>In the project, the turbine is on one side, it will be covered. Similarly, D.G. set will be installed in a separate closed room. Utmost care will be taken for noise pollution control. Ear muffs, ear plugs will be provided to workers working near noise generating machinery in the project. Green belt will be developed, due to which the noise will not go outside the project</p>

		which noise pollution
2)	After the completion of the project, what development plans will be implemented in this area	Environment Consultant said that we are going to work more for increasing sugarcane production. Workshops and guidance will be given on which varieties of sugarcane to sow and which fertilizers to be given to crops. Similarly, we will create public awareness about fertilizers and water supply. We are trying to implement it at every farmer level. Our mission is to empower every farmer.

12) Shri. Rajendra Balu Gund, At Post - Vithalwadi, Taluka- Madha, District - Solapur:-

After expansion, what system will be implemented by the factory to control the waste water coming out of the factory, noise generated, air pollution? Which organization will be working on it?

Controlling pollution in the manufacturing process is the responsibility of the factory. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is responsible for monitoring whether the pollution is as per the approved standards or not. Effluent standards are set by the Central Pollution Control Board. Accordingly, it has been made mandatory for the sugar factories and distilleries to implement "Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)" projects.

Therefore, it is mandatory to treat the waste water generated in the project, recycle and reuse it in the production process itself. Spent wash from the project will be completely burnt and destroyed. Not a single drop of waste water from the project will leave the factory.

13) Shri. Ulhas Raut, At Post - Manegaon, Taluka - Madha, District - Solapur:-

What is the approximate cost of the expansion project?

It is informed that approximately 525 crore rupees will be spent for this project.

Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only.

14) Shri. Bhagwat Sunil Tambile, At Post - Undargaon, Taluka- Madha, District - Solapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Proponent / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Does Maharashtra Pollution Control Board inspect your factory's ETP and air pollution control systems? If so, how often does it do it?	The apex body of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) is the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). According to the directives of CPCB, Online Continuous Monitoring System (OCMS) has been installed in the project. It is connected to the Central Pollution Control Board office in New Delhi and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board server in Mumbai. So, they have data of every second.

		Maharashtra Pollution Control Board do collect water and air samples once or twice a month during the season and reports the same
2)	Will expansion create job opportunities?	Environmental Consultant said that job opportunities would definitely be available. Generally, 1150--1200 people can get jobs as shown in the Presentation. Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled cadres will get job opportunities.

15) Shri Dyaneshwar Shendge, At Post - Vitthalwadi, Taluka - Madha, District - Solapur:-

The sugarcane area will increase due to expansion. The number of employees will also increase. What measures will be taken in case of an accident, fire?

A fire, an accident happens due to natural or human negligence. For that, it is mandatory for the factory to prepare an Onsite Disaster Management Plan and it has been prepared. Fire fighting equipments will be installed in the project as per Government Rules. Similarly, it is mandatory to take approval of Explosives Department, Government of India, Nagpur and follow their instructions. Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health (DISH), Government of Maharashtra extends training and mock drill to the workers of the project to know what to do in case of an accident while the factory is operation.

Similarly, Offsite Disaster Management Plan is always in operation full time under the authority of the District Collector. Onsite and Offsite Disaster Management Plan is given detail in the EIA Report.

Here again Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only.

16) Shri Deepak Deshmukh, At Post - Manegaon, Taluka - Madha, District - Solapur :-

Ash flies from the boiler nearly two k.m. away. It spreads in water, on fields. Will it have any side effects?

Project Environmental Consultant answered that during his own inspection, he observed that the ash was spread. For this, most advanced ESP system has been implemented and it will be increased from three fields to seven fields. This will arrest the flying dust particles. It does not directly affect crops.

Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the Environmental Public Hearing Committee gave opportunities to all participants in the meeting to raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle. He again appealed to the participants for comments, suggestions or objections. There was no response from the participants.

Member, Convener informed that the suggestions, objections raised during the meeting are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The written suggestions, objections will be attached along with final EIA and minutes of the meeting with approval of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee and it will be submitted through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee there will take further decision.

Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending the Environment Public Hearing and raising suggestions, objections. He thanked all project officials and government officials and on behalf of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

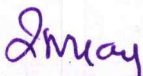
The details of written 05 suggestions/objections/comments received regarding project expansion are mentioned below and are enclosed herewith:-

- 1) Change Makers Rural Environment Development Society, Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Fight Against Global Warming, Telangana
- 3) Dharani Environment Society, Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Pragati Environment Society, Telangana
- 5) Shakti Environment Rural Development Society, Anantpuram

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



(Nikhil Jalindar More)
Member, Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
&
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Solapur



(Sou. Shama Pawar),
Chairperson
Environment Public Hearing Committee
&
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur
District - Solapur