

Minutes of the Public Hearing

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR EXPANSION OF SILICA SAND MINING AND WASHING WITH PRODUCTION CAPACITY FROM 3,00,000.0 TON PER ANNUM (TPA) TO 4,50,742.0 TPA AND EXTENSION OF MINE LEASE PERIOD AT VILLAGE-KASARDE, TALUKA-KANKAVALI, DISTRICT – SINDHUDURG, BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S MAHARASHTRA MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED (MMCL), VILLAGE-KASARDE, TALUKA-KANKAVALI, DISTRICT – SINDHUDURG, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed expansion of Silica Sand Mining And Washing With Production Capacity From 3,00,000.0 TPA To 4,50,742.0 TPA And Extension of Mine Lease Period at Village – Kasarde, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s Maharashtra Minerals Corporation Limited (MMCL), Village – Kasarde, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg,

was conducted on Monday, the 28th August, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. at Smit Lawns, Behind Narkar Petroleum, Bandwadi Road, Kasarde, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg, Maharashtra

Following were the panel members as per Board's Office Order No.E-57 of 2022 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B -230808-FTS-0178 dated 08.08.2023 :-

- 1) Hon'ble Machindra Sukate, - **Chairman,**
Additional District Magistrate, Sindhudurg,
District - Sindhudurg
- 2) Shri Jagannath S. Salunkhe, - **Member**
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Kolhapur
- 3) Shri. Rahul D. Mote - **Convener**
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Ratnagiri

Shri Rahul D. Mote, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Machindra Sukate, Additional District Magistrate, Sindhudurg and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Jagannath S. Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee and Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants

who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

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 and 14th August, 2018 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 on 24-06-2022 from Project Proponent M/s Maharashtra Minerals Corporation Limited (MMCL), Village – Kasarde, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg, Maharashtra to conduct Environment Public Hearing for their proposed expansion of Silica Sand Mining And Washing With Production Capacity From 3,00,000.0 TPA To 4,50,742.0 TPA And Extension of Mine Lease Period at Village – Kasarde, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category B1 schedule (a) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai 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 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 obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) to the, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai on 19-07-2021 and it has been considered and given online approval on 21-12-2021.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri in the Local Newspaper in Daily Tarun Bharat for Marathi and in National Newspaper Indian Express for English on 27th July, 2023. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts, or objections regarding the proposed unit.

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

- 1) District Collector, Sindhudurg;
- 2) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Office, Sindhudurg;
- 3) General Manger, District Industries Center, Sindhudurg;
- 4) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 5) Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;

- 6) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001
- 7) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, Kolhapur
- 8) Sub Divisional Officer-Kanakvali, Tal-Kankaval, District – Sindhudurg;
- 9) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Kankavali, Taluka – Kankavali , District – Sindhudurg;
- 10) Sarpanch/Gram Sevak, Grampanchayat Office – At Kasarde, Taluka – Kanakvali, District – Sindhudurg;
- 11) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Central Administrative Building No.2, 2nd Floor, Collector Office, Ratnagiri – 415 612;
- 12) Web Site Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai

Convener further informed that not a single suggestion/objection is received by Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri.

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, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee 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, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai 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 requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairman, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project.

Project Environmental Consultant said that the total investment of the said project is 482.0 Lacs. Whereas the Capital cost for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is estimated to be Rs.76.36 lakh, while the Recurring Cost is Rs.56.71 lakh. Green belt will be developed in the project and area.

Similarly, the social requirements of the local people will be fulfilled as just we have been fulfilling over the past several years, it will be done in the future as well. A provision of Rs.9,46,200/- has been made for Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) Plan.

After the presentation, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee told the participants that the Project Environmental Consultant of the project has completed the presentation. Now participants are requested to present any suggestions, thoughts or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. While raising suggestions, objections, full name and place of residence should be mentioned first.

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 Amol Jayawantrao Jamdade, Residence – Kasarde Village, Taluka – Kanakavali, District – Sindhudurg :-

Welcome to large number of people from the area who are attending this Environmental Public Hearing organized by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

I am a resident of Kasarde village and my house is just 1-1.1/2 km away from the project. As shown in the presentation, this mining industry in Kasarde village has a history of 55-60 years. If one generation is considered of 25 years, then two generations of Kasarde village are involved in this mining industry. When a boy from this village and Konkan grew up, he used to go to Mumbai to work in a mill or some other industry and used to send money to his parents. Here the parents used to live alone while the son used to struggle for livelihood alone at Mumbai. Then he used to come here for Gauri-Ganapati or for Diwali.

However, due to this industry, employment has been provided to the local people here and due to this mining industry, the name of Kasarde village has gone to the whole world. All credit goes to this business. So, I am proud of it. Due to this project, there has been a huge increase in indirect business in this area. Therefore, there has been an increase in the markets, grocery shops, vegetable business here. 400-500 local and people came from outside are working in the project.

During epidemics like Corona, the company provided equipments, which helped in measuring the patient's temperature. Helped the people here immensely. In our Primary Health Centre, It was necessary to keep the data of the patient who took the Corona vaccine in good order. We contacted company officials to solve our difficulties and the company immediately provided a computer to the primary health center. Benches were provided to a local school here. Similarly, an ambulance has been given to the Primary Health Centre of the village from the mining fund. Due to this, patients are being well managed. Thanks to the company.

Project Proponent has some suggestions to make in this environmental public hearing -

- a) In this area by this project for environmental conservation, a large number of local species of trees should be planted and nurtured;

- b) The Primary Health Centre has two ambulances. However, if the economically weaker sections of the society have to go to the hospital for medical treatment, the project should provide free transportation to the economically weaker section patient from his home to the hospital and from the hospital to his home;
- c) A large number of skilled and unskilled workers will be recruited in the project. The village does not have the skilled workers required by the project, while the contractual workers in the project have been working for the past few years. If the project requires manpower, it is requested that our contractual workers from Kasarde village and project area be permanently employed. People of my village and locality must get employment;
- d) Directives as passed by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board must be strictly followed by the company. We hope that the company's involvement in the social development of the area will continue along with the company's development. The project is supported by locals. Therefore, the youth of my village should be given job opportunities. Local youths are appealed to participate in this company's activities.

2) Shri Suresh Karale, Residence-Anandnagar, Kasarde, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg, Journalists:-

Today is the Environmental Public Hearing, but local people have not received the information intime. During the meeting, it is informed that public notice was published thirty days before in Marathi in Tarun Bharat and in English in Indian Express. But the local people have not received those papers here.

At that time, the local people in the meeting expressed the opinion that Shri Suresh Karale should not make misleading statements and showed the paper in the meeting saying that they had received the paper. Shri Karale objected that not everyone reads the paper, while the notice of the meeting is circulated in the village, it has not been circulated. So many people could not attend the meeting.

Shri Karale objected that it is not mentioned which government agency has prepared Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report? Also, EIA report is not made available to local people. If it would have received, local people could have been able to present relevant topics.

In the presentation, it is mentioned that the company has implemented several social schemes. But, there is no mention who controls those social schemes now. Is there any mechanism in this regard? It is necessary to provide information about the present status of social schemes implemented in this regard.

Similarly, it is not known how many people from local villages were given job opportunities and in which cadres they are working in the overall project. Also, the cost of proposed project and job opportunities in the project has not been shown. It is just mentioned that 84 persons will be given employment in the project. Maharashtra

Government has declared the ratio regarding generation of employment/ job opportunities and cost of the project.

The report did not comment on whether local youth would be given job opportunities in the project by providing advance Skill Development Training.

The report mentioned that the said project has been operating here for the past fifty years. The villagers are requested to tell where and how much green belt has been developed by the project in the last fifty years. Also, there is no information about where the green belt will be developed in the proposed project.

As mentioned in the EIA report, the survey is carried within 10 km radius of the project. Everyone has the right to water, forest and land. If the water, forest and land are damaged due to the project, it will be the villagers who will suffer. It is observed that the water in this area is very deep. Water is not available everywhere.

So, there is no mention about how much water the company will pump from the river. There are many such issues. Had the EIA report been received in advance, it could have been discussed in detailed. Thank you for allowing me to speak here.

3) Shri Sanjay Dattaram Patade, Residence – Kasarde – North South Gaonthan, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg-

I thank all former and present Public Representatives in this Environment Public Hearing meeting. Maharashtra State is formed in May, 1960 and I born in 1968. The present public representatives from this area showed foresight, co-operated with the company and made continuous efforts for the development of the village, for which the villagers appreciated and thanked them deeply. What was the condition of the village when I was born and how is it progressing now, the credit goes to this project and the various mines here.

Today, the local people came here in their own cars, this prosperity came because of Maharashtra Minerals. I took the delegation many times. This company - Maharashtra Minerals immediately takes into consideration the farmers' queries. It means that the company administration is interested in the locals and we are satisfied with their efforts. Earlier the sand from here used to go to Kolhapur.

Now the children here are carrying dry sand business by processing it here. Hence 2,500-3,000 people here are earning their livelihood from this business. Similarly, the Company Administration also co-ordinates with us if there is any problem.

We are all farmers. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should look into the legal side for this company to continue its functioning. There are 80 young men in our locality/Wadi, why did they stay in the village, they stayed here because they got jobs. Hence, positive approach for the project should be considered. The project is supported by the locals.

4) **Shri Ravindra Sitaram Patade, Residence – Anand Nagar, Kasarde village, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg:-**

I am a son of Bhumiputra. Many generations of us have lived here. I am a citizen, not a businessman. The reason for saying this is that my problems can become the village's problems, my joy can be the village's joy. The village has definitely benefited from the Maharashtra Minerals Corporation and Society. Companies here are in touch with us and we also discuss various topics with them. Problems are being solved by co-operation.

Neighbors of the village, colleagues who are working in this company are also getting support in the social activities of the village. Based on that, our Kasarde is the most populous village in Sindhudurga, earning the fame in Maharashtra. Our schools are being developed because of the business people here.

I am on the Board of Directors of a school and we go to Project Management for any urgent need. Company Administration is 100% co-operative. The good that is going to happen in Kasarde village is due to the mining industry here. As a villager, I am vouching that such an atmosphere of co-operation will remain in the village. In 1961, this Project Administration started Mining Industry and provided employment to the people here.

We will fulfill the motto of village development by creating a chain of hands between the project administration and the local citizens. This is an environmental public hearing and environmental issues will arise and be resolved, but business must continue. There will be discrepancies, which can be resolved through co-operation. Project Proponent must take care that the environment is not damaged in any way. For that, the people of the village are also going to help shoulder to shoulder to the company.

5) **Shri Prakash Suman Tirodkar alias Babu Tirodkar, Residence-Kasardi Jambhulwadi, Taluka-Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg**

:-

I am a native of Kasarde village and a tax payer of Kasarde village. I welcome all the participants and inform that the survey of Kasarde village was done during the British period and efforts were being made at the government level to extract the minerals here. Minerals are the wealth of our country and mining of minerals has to be done.

As shown in the Presentation, Project Proponent have adopted various measures to avoid pollution of water, air and land. The company continues to generate employment. Here a local objected to the company's green belt. Green belt is not just planting trees in one belt. Planting of tree species around the project as per the directions of Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, so that the dust and noise nuisance remains under control. Some may oppose the project. Local, skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled people of the project area be given job opportunities in the project.

CSR funds should be spent for local development, similarly various development schemes should be prepared. If trees have to be cut during project expansion and project development, five times more trees should be planted.

As the mineral fund is under the control of the District Collector, Kasurde village does not get benefit from it. The winter session of Maharashtra is held at Nagpur and the Head Office of Mining is in Nagpur. However, officials of Maharashtra Minerals, government officials, public representatives, Hon'ble Member of Parliament of this constituency should prepare a proposal to provide medical and educational facilities in Kasurde village to get direct benefit from the mining funds of the Mining Department and to see how the fund can be given to Kasurde village and its area as much as possible from now. Commissioning of Industry is opposed in many parts of the country and state, but we Kasurde villagers welcome the project.

I express the hope that the project should be developed here as per the directives of Central and State Government and benefit of the project should get to Kasurde village and to project affected area.

It was confirmed in many reports that the Western Ghats, forests and mines and plants are being damaged. In accordance with this, the Central Government and the Government of Maharashtra have come up with various rules on forest, environment and mining and mineral rules, and today the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has organized an Environmental Public Hearing.

**6) Shri Santosh Kanade, Residence – Pivadi village,
Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg :-**

Maharashtra Minerals Corporation has been doing business here for the past fifty years. Company Administration made efforts to make local people financially empowered while carrying operations of the project. A survey in the radius of 10 k.m. project area has been carried out and potential environmental impacts/pollution control measures due to the expansion have been presented in the presentation. But there are no problems or difficulties due to the project, they are caused by the government.

Due to this project, royalty of lakhs of rupees accrues to the government. So this royalty is to be spent only for the development of the villages affected by the project. Mining Committee is headed by the District Collector and consists of Guardian Ministers and Members. Although the local people present in the meeting are aware of the discrepancies, I request Government to "nominate One of the Present Villagers" as a Member in the Mining Committee.

Only the citizens here can tell where and how much royalty should be spent. Maharashtra Minerals is the only company operating here. All the schools in the district are closed. However, the attendance of schools in the area remained good, because the citizens of this place are involved in the local industry and their children are studying in this school.

Similarly, Shivaganga river flows near Kasurde village and there is Manacha Savala Dongar/small mountain. So, trees should be planted there through social forestry. The Department of Social Forestry has done the work of establishing forests

at many places in the district. So Savala Mountain of Kasarde is under the jurisdiction of Forest Department.

So, a good deal has come from the social forest department to green this shady hill. In the last 40 years, many mines have been developed here, it now has good/quality water. The said project extracts lakhs of liters of water from river Shivaganga. According to the new plan of the Government, the government should call a meeting and prepare a plan for water. Remaining houses and lands should be brought under irrigation. This scheme should be implemented through the Government.

This water is released as waste water. So a joint plan of the government and the project promoter/company should be prepared and if it is planned for the villages near the highway, the village will be economically prosperous due to this plan.

Schools, ambulances will be here. The development infrastructure must be in the village. Government builds roads. Overloaded trucks, dumpers, vehicles of the company ply the road. However, it is requested that if the government collects crores of rupees as royalty through mining, the royalty should be spent for the affected villages due to the project.

Because this road in the village has been approved as a "District Road" and it is requested to make it a cement concrete road from the mining fund. Now there is 8-10 crore rupees remaining in mining fund and I request that all that amount be given for our road.

Maharashtra Minerals Corporation, which once again generates millions of business, should be permitted 4,50,742 per annum lease. Many other mines closed down, but this one continues because everyone is supportive. Implementation is not only alone from Maharashtra Minerals, but but also ours, as we are also responsible citizens. However, this project should be approved after correcting the errors/discrepancies in project implementation.

**7) Shri Dilip Talekar, Residence – Talere Village,
Former Sabhapati, Taluka-Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg:-**

Here Environment Public Hearing is organized by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. This company has been around since before our birth. But in the last 10-15 years, this business has gained so much momentum that it can be guessed if you look at all the young people here. Thousands of families are involved in this business. There has been a huge increase in indirect employment here. The entire market of Talere village is due to the activities of this company.

The primary school attendance here is also higher than the schools in the district. The expansion of the project is due to these youths, and I appeal to the youths to participate in the future, so that the project will expand further.

However, I request the Project Proponent to set up a processing plant here, so that the local youth can get employment. Also, the company should make every effort to maintain environmental balance.

**8) Shri Sanjay Sambhaji Patade, Residence – Kasarde, South Gaonthan,
Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg :-**

I am a farmer and worked in mining. Now many speakers said that because of this Maharashtra Minerals Corporation, the village has progressed and people have become financially empowered. Indeed, the company has a big stake in it. While running such a big business, there can be errors. This is a democracy, and everyone has the right to express their opinion, but everyone should be allowed to express their opinion.

I am a Member of Taluka Journalists' Association and I do freelance journalism. Kasarde has burning questions, conditional questions, sensitive ones, but the locals can tell if I ever interfered?

Some errors have been left in the matter of publicity. Making suggestions/objections regarding –

- a) Along with business, the project is following social commitment. It has developed the software Aksharamaya. But it depends on the short cut. It is an adoption of English and thus the words have been corrupted in many places. If the word is not understood, how to raise the question?;
- b) Many points were raised by all, I work as a Co-ordinator between villagers and professionals (project promoters). We solve many things by sitting together with co-operation. All that responsibility would be on me. i.e convening the meeting, conducting the meeting, preparing its minutes etc.

I myself stood on the road and took care of the responsibility of filling the potholes, cleaning the roads and providing information about it.

The condition of the road here is a serious matter. The prosperity of our village and locality must happen. But in the EIA report, it is only mentioned that the road will be repaired.

If you are going to triple the production, do you have the infrastructure in place? How are you going to try to develop that infrastructure? Government level issues are different. The locals are demanding that the company's works should be given to the contractors of the village itself so that the children of the village can become self-reliant.

Maharashtra Minerals Company should declare its policy in this regard. Also, the road maintenance and the policy should be clarified. The company will see its benefit while doing business, it is right, but locals should be given priority in employment, contract work and rules should be followed strictly.

9) Shri Sudhakar (Babu) Suresh Pedhanekar, Former Dv.Sarpanch, Residence – Kasarde-Parkarwadi, Taluka – Kanakwali, District – Sindhudurg :-

Here in the public hearing, every speaker presented his thoughts. Someone raised questions about their locality/wadi and road. It will be presented at the public hearing. There are people of Banjara community in the village. They load cars. They work. I am proud that their children have reached upto the post of Tehsildar. Children from all communities here are giving various competitive examinations. This is good condition of the area is due to the mine. I don't want to oppose the company.

Because there is nothing to oppose. The problem of water was only in the village, but the company has done boring at their expense. Maharashtra Minerals Company respects every person in the village. But Kasarde's fund goes to another village. Govt//Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should look into this. The road is being repaired here, but due to the load cars, the road is not sustainable. There is harmony in the village and everyone is united. However, the approval of the project should be given as much as possible.

10) Shri Prakash Sakharan Parkar, Former Dy. Sabhapati, Kasarde-Parkarwadi, Taluka – Kankavali, District – Sindhudurg :-

Welcoming to the Environmental Public Hearing. All the local speakers who spoke here have supported project expansion and lease extension. We have been watching the development of the village since childhood. According to the villagers, this is not a sand mine, but a gold mine.

Villagers support the project. However, the said project should continue to be operational by following all the laws of the Government. Company should take note of the suggestions and objections made in the meeting and make improvements accordingly. All Government directives should be strictly followed. Good luck with the project.

11) Shri Ganesh Tukaram Pednekar, RTI Activist, Residence – Kasarde, Taluka – Kanakavali, District – Sindhudurg :-

Here there is harmony between the government administration and the company. There may be local issues. The company should solve it on its own. The mining business must continue. So there is progress. However, the company should do business by following all the laws.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee called upon the attendees to register environmental suggestions, objections to the proposed project. At that time, the attendees demanded that the afternoon public hearing be held immediately. The member said that as per the rules, the afternoon public hearing will be held only in the afternoon.

12) Shri Sanjay Dhananjay Desai, Former Zilla Parishad Member – Sindhudurg, Residence – Kasarde, Taluka – Kanakavali, District – Sindhudurg -

Today I am going to talk about environment. My village Kasarde where mining takes place, has 23 wadis. (localities). It has a population of around 7,000 souls is just 5-7 km from there. In the distance is a shadowy mountain. It is surrounded by creations. It is a credit to our Kasarde village. Also every temple has Vanarai/forest cover. A Government Committee had come here. They have appointed me for "Mazi Vasundhara" drive for Kasarde village.

I am happy to say that in my Kasarde village, there are trees which are 200 years old. Now numbering process on the trees is going on. Also we are going to get a plot under Mazi Vasundhara Yojana. We are planting trees that give more oxygen e.g. Pimpal, Banayan Tree etc.

Maharashtra Minerals Corporation and Society run the activities by trusting the local people. 25 years ago there was a water famine. Everybody had to walk around for the water. But now, water is available for boring and well. So now there is no water problem.

Hence, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is requested to approve the project subject to all terms and conditions.

Environmental Consultant of the project while concluding the meeting said that total of 12 persons have raised direct suggestions, views or objections. Thank you to everyone who participated in the discussions.

He further said that an objection was raised in the discussions that who prepared this EIA report, is it a recognized body? So, I am not a representative of Maharashtra Minerals Corporation but of Open Arc Design and Enviro Solutions LLP. We are approved consultant of NABET. He further said that NABET is an autonomous organization of the Government of India.

Environmental Consultant informed that We have received Certificate of Accreditation from it. Accordingly, our organization has prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as per the directives of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.

He said an objection was raised in the meeting that EIA report was not made available. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri published a public notice in a local newspaper in Marathi and a national newspaper in English language thirty days before the public hearing and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and all documents were made available for public inspection at the notified offices of the Central and State Government well in advance.

He further said that the suggestions raised in the meeting will be noted in the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Project Proponent Major Naik thanked all the dignitaries on the dais and the participants for encouraging the business. He assured that whatever is legal, the company will do. As the company co-operates, it will continue to do so in the future.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee thanked all the dignitaries, public representatives and local people who were present in large numbers in the meeting. He said that this public hearing meeting is completed in very congenial and friendly atmosphere. Positive approach of the local participants is appreciated.

In the meeting, twelve local persons have raised their suggestions, objections, which were duly answered by the representatives of the company. While supporting the project, the participants in the meeting said that the expansion of the project should be done by following all the directives of CPCB and MPCB. Chairman, Environment

Public Hearing Committee thanked everyone and declared the public hearing is concluded.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all those present and declared the closure of the public hearing in conclusion.

Enclosed 06 written suggestions/objections are enclosed herewith.


(Rahul D. Mote)

Convener,
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Ratnagiri



(Jagannath S. Salunkhe)
Member,
And
Regional Officer-Kolhapur
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur



(Machindra Sukate)
Chairman,
And
Additional District Magistrate, Sindhudurg,
District – Sindhudurg