

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING HELD IN
RESPECT OF M/S. ARYA STEELS ROLLING (INDIA) PVT. LTD. PLOT NO.
B-6, KAGAL-HATKANANGALE FIVE STAR MIDC, HALASAVADE, TAL:
KAGAL, DIST. KOLHAPUR, (MAHARASHATRA STATE) FOR PROPOSED
EXPANSION OF MS ROLLED, TMT BAR AND STRUCTURAL STEEL
PRODUCTION CAPACITY FROM 9000 MT/MONTH TO 15000 MT/MONTH**

An environmental public hearing in respect of M/s. Arya Steels Rolling (India) Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. B-6, Kagal-Hatkanangale Five Star MIDC, Halasavade, Tal: Kagal, Dist. Kolhapur, (Maharashtra State) for proposed expansion of MS Rolled, TMT Bar and Structural Steel production capacity from 9000 MT/Month to 15000 MT/Month was held on 02-11-2023 at 11.00 am at factory / project site, Plot No. B-6, Kagal-Hatkanangale Five Star MIDC, Halasavade, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

Following panel members were present during the public hearing.

1. Shri Sanjay Teli, : Chairman
Additional District Magistrate
cum Resident Deputy Collector,
Kolhapur.
(Representative of Hon. District Collector)
2. Shri. Jagannath S. Salunkhe, : Member
Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur
(Representative of MPC Board)
3. Shri. Pramod R. Mane, : Convener.
Sub Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur.

In the beginning Shri Pramod R. Mane, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB Kolhapur cum Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing welcomed all people present for public hearing and started hearing with permission of the Chairman. He stated that the project proponent has submitted a proposal to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for the proposed project. Accordingly, MOEFCC has granted them TOR with certain terms and conditions and as a part of it, today's public hearing is conducted. As per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, a notice regarding this public hearing was published on 28/09/2023 in local edition of Marathi newspaper Pudhari and

English newspaper in The Times of India. The copies of EIA report were kept for a month for study for the public at District Collector Office, Kolhapur; District Industries Centre, Kolhapur; CEO Office, Zilla parishad Kolhapur; Environment Department, Mantralaya Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai; Head Office of MPC Board, Sion, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPCB, Kolhapur; SDO Office, Ichalkaranji; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Kagal/Hatknangale/Karveer, Kolhapur; Tahsil Office, Kagal/Hatkanangale/Karveer, Kolhapur; Grampanchayat, Talandage; Grampanchayat Pattan Kodoli; Grampanchayat Kasaba Sangaon; Grampanchayat Rui, Grampanchayat Halasave, Grampanchayat Sangavade; Chief Officer, Hupari Municipal Council, Hupari, Kolhapur and it was requested the public to submit their objections, suggestions etc. regarding the proposed project. In continuation Shri Mane told that first of all the environmental consultant of the project proponent will show presentation regarding the proposed project, the people should watch it and thereafter should raise any doubts, questions, objections, suggestions etc. by mentioning their name and place, public can also submit written representations if any. Today's Public Hearing proceedings will be recorded and the minutes of the public hearing will be sent to SEIAA of Maharashtra government for further decision. The environmental public hearing committee does not take any decision regarding permission to the proposed project.

Thereafter, Hon'ble Sanjay Teli, Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee cum Resident Deputy Collector, Kolhapur informed that the committee will record all the proceedings of the meeting as it is and will submit the Minutes of public hearing to the government, the committee will not take any decisions regarding giving permission to the proposed project, the final decision will be taken by SEIAA. He told that first of all the environmental consultant will give the presentation and thereafter people should raise queries, objections, doubts and the environmental consultant will give reply. Thereafter, he requested the environmental consultant of project proponent to give the presentation.

Thereafter, Shri Rajesh Mankar, Southern Enviro Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Subbarao Environment Centre, Environmental Consultant of the project propone presented information regarding proposed project with the help of slide show. It includes Project Introduction, Project Site Map, 10 km Topographic Study Area Map of the Project Site, Satellite Photograph of the Project & Project Site, Project Layout Map, Project Details and Environmental Information of the 10 km Study Area of the Project Site, Water use Details, Water Requirements, Land use Details, Electricity Requirements, Manpower Requirements, Specific Meteorological Data Available, Wind Rose Diagram – December 2021 to February 2022 (IMD Specific), Ambient Air Sample Monitoring Locations, Summary of Ambient Air Quality Results, Ambient Noise – Quality Monitoring Locations, Ambient Noise Levels & Summary of Monitoring Results, Groundwater Sampling Locations, Groundwater Quality Assessment,

Surface Water Sampling Locations, Surface Water Monitoring, Soil Sampling Locations, Soil Sampling Observations, Land Use Pattern of the Study Area, Land Use Land Cover Class of the Study Area, Biological Environment, Socio-Economic Environment, Green Development, Environmental Management Plan Framework, Air Pollution Control, Water Quality Management, Domestic Sewage Management, Noise Pollution Control, Disaster Management Plan, Socio Economic and Social Development Program, Proposed CSR activities, social activities, findings, benefits of the proposed project etc. In continuation to presentation, he requested to the public for the cooperation for the proposed project. A Xerox copy of the presentation is enclosed as **Annexure 1**.

After completion of presentation, the question answer session took place as below :-

Q.1. Shri Maruti Hari Ganamale, Resident of village Sangavadewadi, Tal: Karveer, Dist: Kolhapur.

In accordance with the presentation made during the public hearing, the management of the company is requested to inform about the policy of the company regarding compensation related to environmental protection.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that as mentioned in the presentation that project proponent will be fully taken care of the environment. Also, this project is only for TMT bar production, there will be no production of MS ingots as the MS billet will be carried through the conveyor belt & converted into MS bar as per required dimensions by heating process only the project does not need transportation of raw material, only the finished product i.e. TMT bars will be transported. The environmental standards laid down by MOEF, CPCB and MPCB will be achieved by taking due care. Also, the project proponent allocated the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) budget for taking care of air pollution, noise pollution etc. The green belt development will be done on the land of 0.9 hectare in which a total of 1800 trees will be planted as well as amount of Rs. 10 lakhs will be spent under CSR as per suggestions of Grampanchayats within the 10 km study area of the proposed project. The company will assured that they will take care of keeping the surrounding environment pollution free and there will be benefits to the peoples due to proposed expansion.

Q.2. Shri Vithu Suryakant Chougule.

What will be the benefits of the proposed project to the villagers?

Ans.

Environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that as per the presentation, there is additional requirement of 60 employees in addition to the existing 90 employees and the preference will be given to people from the surrounding area depending on their skill and ability. Besides, this the amount under CRS funds is allocated & that will be spent as per suggestion of concerned Grampanchayats. So overall due to proposed project expansion there will be direct and indirect employment to the local people like truck transport to the local people.

No.3: Shri. Nitin Sadashiv Hawaldar, Resident of village Halasavade, Tal; Karveer, Dist: Kolhapur.

I want to ask a question to the company management that for how many years your company has been running here and how many people have you employed from Halsawade village. Secondly, you are causing pollution and expecting our people to work as drivers and cleaners. I have agricultural land at Gat No. 235 where there is lot of pollution and I request MPCB officials to visit my sugarcane farm only once, you will find pollution. Also, i have got checked my bore well water and as per the report, it is unfit for drinking purpose. There are many companies located in this area, and if they go for expansion, it will cause lot of pollution affecting our health and agricultural land. This company has not done anything for the environment as well as show us that the project proponent helps to residents of Halsawade village and help given to the schools. The company has never paid even a single rupee, we don't want this project, and the company should be shut down. I am a farmer myself, the condition of our agricultural land is very bad, and we totally oppose the proposed project. Also, who is going to control the amount that will be spent under CSR fund. We have planted trees with our own money, tell us how many trees project proponents have planted in our village & show the photos of them. Also, they did not inform to the villagers while carrying out study of the surrounding area of 10 kms. Show us the 100 banyan trees that you have planted as mentioned by project proponent during presentation as well as show us who has counted the number of trees. The noise level of the surrounding area at night is very high as a cumulative effect of all the industries in MIDC due to which we can't sleep properly. In continuation to this he raised the question that how project proponent major the noise level decibels as mentioned in presentation without informing to us and your company is operating here from last 20-22 years, show us what type of help you given to the villagers in this period as well as show us your labour

register, if any worker from our village is working here. We will not allow this project to start at any cost. I am a worker of Bharatiya Janata Party & we don't want this project.

On this, Hon. Chairman of the public hearing committee said that we will take note of all the views of the public as it is and will submit minutes of this public hearing to the Government.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that the number of trees we mentioned during the presentation is the number of total trees of different species to be proposed to plant on the area of 0.9 hectare. You have stated that due to this project your agricultural land has been damaged and water in the surrounding area is polluted, but the proposed project is of the production of TMT bars only. The project's process description plays an essential role for the manufacturing project. The Water is used in this project for the following purposes: cooling the bars (i.e., cooling the hot iron), green belt development, spraying, and domestic consumption & from that only domestic effluent is generated. The proposed project will treat domestic wastewater in a sewage treatment facility and use the cleaned water for green belt development. There is no more wastewater generated by the project. Additionally, the concerned gram panchayat should inform the management of the company of the needs for which the CSR fund is allocated, and Money shall be used in a way that the Gram Panchayat agrees. Also, employment depends on the skill and ability of the labor class, the labour who is willing to work in a hot environment where temperatures is ranging from 900 to 1200 degrees will be recruited.

**No.4. Shri Krishna Madsulkar, Ex Dy Sarpanch, Pattan Kodoli,
Dist: Kolhapur.**

When a company moves from one state to another, we see there a big uproar because of loss of employment, and if a company asks for expansion, we should totally support the expansion. Job is the primary factor. If there are no skilled workers from our local areas still we ask the management of the company to give jobs to young people from the area in the accounts department or another area of the company's operations. Give the young people from Halsawade village priority as Jobs should be given to those who are impacted by pollution. Second, the development of the green belt needs to be properly monitored. Plants require constant

care and should survive. This company helped 120 families in our area when the floods hit, giving them food, blankets, and other necessities. I appreciate this company's assistance. The CSR amount should be raised from one percent to two percent because the current amount of Rs. 10 lakhs is insufficient and should be prioritized for the village of Halasavade before being allocated to other villages & that should be given to help to schools, students, mothers, tree plantation etc. Preference should be given to the village of Halsawade since it is where the project is located. I also requested to project proponent to build concrete roads around the project to prevent the emission of dust which cause adverse impact on agriculture. We should support the project for the sake of development of this area that has been proposed.

No. 5. Shree Ravindra Kamble, Member, Gram Panchayat Halsavade, Tal: Karveer, Dist: Kolhapur.

Under CSR, the company has not spent even a rupee for Halasavade village. There is no benefit but only loss for us from the company. All resources in our village are completely polluted. There is no employment, not a single youth from our village is employed in this company but there is air and water pollution. Industry representatives have said that the pH of the water is 7.9 but you have not clarified whether the water is suitable for drinking or not. That isn't drinkable water as the water in our village is 100% polluted. When the company was established 20 years ago, there was no water available in the village & the situation was very bad. Today the water supply is provided but we are facing pollution problems due to the companies around our village. It has become difficult for us to live here. The village has seen a rise in sickness cases and stray dogs because of MIDC. There is a proposal for new MIDC in our area, but we are against the proposed MIDC, and we have stopped it because industries located in the existing MIDC area are causing pollution. Also, due to M/s. Arya Steels Rolling Pvt. Ltd., pollution has increased & black dust is sprading on sugarcane crops due to which not even animals can eat such type of cultivated crops. You have spent money under CSR funds in village Pattan Kodoli, but neglected village Halasavade. Display the figures for the jobs and benefits provided to the people of Halasavade village. The village has no presence of trees. You haven't given single rupees help to our primary school. We are not going to allow this expansion and I oppose a proposed project as a member of the Gram Panchayat.

No. 6. Shri Arun Khochage, resident of village Halasavade, Tal: Karveer, Dist: Kolhapur :-

Now my friends / villagers said that the company has not given any help to Halsawade village. But I want to say that M/s. Arya Steels Rolling Pvt. Ind. has provided all steel bars required to build a society hall in Village Halaswade in which social programs are held and its name is written on the board. Secondly, we get employment opportunities in the company. Thirdly, I am the nearest farmer to this company, having Gat no. 79, we have 16 acres of agricultural land 100 feet from the company. We have our own water well and there is no pollution from any industry as we live here & there is neither air pollution nor water pollution.

No. 7. Shri Tanaji Ashok Patil, Resident of village Halasavade, Tal: Karveer, Dist: Kolhapur.

M/s. Arya Steel Rolling Pvt. Ltd. Company has been operating since 2007 in five star industrial estate near our village. After publication of the notice regarding the proposed project, I wrote a letter on September 30, 2023, to the Gram Panchayat not to grant permission to the proposed project. After that, the Gram Panchayat has duly sent a letter to the company taking note of my application. A copy of this letter should be submitted by the Gram Panchayat. On October 20, 2023, I again wrote to the Gram Panchayat to convene a Gav Sabha/Public Meeting to discuss the current pollution issues of this company and the pollution after the proposed expansion. It is our stand that issues like problems of the health of the people, pollution of agricultural land, water pollution should be discussed with the villagers. My first question is how many employees were working in this company since company establishment (2007) till today, how many people have benefited from it since 2007, as reported by environmental consultants? And whose vehicle is being used. Some people told that the industry has provided free steel bars for building of hall, but I want to say that for the same hall I also paid Rs. 20,000/- & everyone in the village has helped and it is our duty as well as it is a social responsibility. Our agricultural land of one acre is in Gat No. 37, 35, 95 and 97, in which the company claims that air pollution survey has been conducted by them. If anyone says that there is no pollution from this company, then it is not true as large amount of dust fly in our agricultural land. Before 2007, we used to grow vegetables in the fields, but now even sugarcane does not grow in our fertile land and its production has reduced considerably. Hence, the claim that there is no pollution from this company is false. Also, during monsoon, polluted

water flows through water bodies and streams due to which the wells along nallas are polluted. The samples of this well water should be collected and tested, otherwise you will not understand the truth. Also, our village has the highest level of noise pollution. The industry has not taken any local people, social organizations, activists etc While conducting survey of noise pollution, they have done this all arbitrarily and there is no guarantee that they will take measures to prevent pollution as what they promise today. Even though we don't have any strong or documentary evidence today, we will take the information and make a report and fight a legal battle, but in any case, we will oppose the proposed expansion. Our villagers do not want this company at all. Some people are supporting the project for their personal interest or family benefit. The village of Haraswade did not benefit from this. The company is expanding within the boundaries of our village. We oppose it because this is not an industrial area, our lives are at risk.

Ans.

The environmental consultant of the proposed project replied that I have already answered the points raised by you. Local people will be given preference in employment if they are willing and able to work. Also, I have already cleared the doubts regarding issues related to agriculture land as well as regarding air pollution, water pollution, production process etc.

Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee asked the complainant to give a copy of his letter dated 30-09-2023 for records and suggested to the project proponent that if the proposed project is approved by the government, it should first make a manifesto regarding 60 nos. jobs in Halsawade village.

No. 8. Shree Tanaji Appasaheb Patil, resident of village Halasavade, Tal: Karveer, Dist: Kolhapur –

I have four vehicles which M/s. Arya Steels has for hired on rent.

No. 9. Shree Harishchandra Dhotare, Chairman, Manufacturers Association, Kagal Hatkanangale Five Star MIDC, Dist: Kolhapur.

The matter of CSR has been discussed just now. Last year ESI facility for workers was started in Kagal Hatkanangale Five Star MIDC for which every industry in this MIDC has contributed, but the major

contribution of Rs. 11 lacs have been made by Shree Alok Bansal of M/s. Arya Steels Rolling Pvt. Ltd. Earlier, this whole area was dry area, now irrigation water has come to Halasavade village, which also contains share of MIDC water. Water supplied to MIDC as well as water used for green belt development get percolated in the agricultural land. Mainly the question of water pollution arises due to processing industries for that the CETP is provided, which was set up for the treatment of effluents coming out of the textile industry & presently CETP is running at 25 percent efficiency as Government has made compulsory Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) two years back, so these companies have installed their own effluent treatment plants and use the treated water into the industrial premises. Also, all entrepreneurs are taking care that there will be no pollution in the future. Some villages may not have benefits, but overall, it is beneficial for all as the standard of living has improved in this area. If MIDC had not come, this area would not have developed so much. Also, even if the villages, taluka have not benefited directly, the revenue that goes to the Government is used to our people by the government. I say that one should not try to stop the development of society and country for one's personal benefit. As mentioned by villagers, whenever environmental survey of the surrounding area is undertaken for a proposed project, the project proponent should inform our association & involve people so that people can see that everything is happening in front of them. Also, local people don't like to work in an environment where the temperature is very high during production. We had organized a job fair. A white-collar job is non-repetitive, once filled it cannot be filled till retirement. We should think about that.

No. 10. Shri Sumit Rukade, Kagal, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

This company has provided employment directly and indirectly. It has proved beneficial.

No.11. Mrs. Salokhe, Gram Panchayat, Halaswade, Karveer, Dist. Kolhapur.

We, through our Gram Panchayat Halaswade will inform the company management about our suggestion regarding CSR & amount to be required in writing.

No. 12. Shree Sachin Shinde, resident of Pattankodoli, Dist. Kolhapur.

Such type of steel production companies is mostly located in Nagpur area from which the entire country is supplied with steel bars.

There are only two such factories in Kolhapur district. We should try our best to increase the number of such projects so that people around can get jobs. So, as I support the proposed expansion.

No. 13. Mr. Dharmaveer Kamble, A/p. Hupari, Dist. Kolhapur.

The industries here do not give priority to local's people as only 20 to 25 percent of employees belong to local villages. So, all industries should give top priority for the employment of local peoples as they have acquired land for MIDC. We are not against expansion. If you visit our agricultural land in village Talandage, you will find that it is totally polluted as well as Well water is polluted. Hence, pollution control rules should be complied with. We only request that the proposed project should start, but priority should be given to local people.

Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairman requested Shri Jagannath S. Salunkhe, Regional Officer, MPC Board, Kolhapur cum Member of the public hearing committee to get his doubts cleared, if any.

Then, Shree Jagannath Salunkhe opined that the feelings expressed by the public from both angles are highly appreciated. I request the environmental consultant of project proponent to once again explain the health and safety measures that the company is going to take & guide about what air pollution control measures will be taken.

The environmental consultant said that the health checkup of the workers working in the company is done. According to the instructions of the villagers and the officials, we will organize the camp according to the health-related needs of the villagers of Halasawade village. The company will bear the cost of the same & Gram Panchayat should inform the company about its requirement. We assure you that the company will help positively.

Thereafter, Shri Pramod Mane, convener of public hearing requested that apart from those who have already submitted their written representation to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, any person who wants to give written presentation should submit the same to the present MPCB Officials & get the acknowledgment. All these written application/objections will be attached with the minutes of public hearing & will be sent to the SEIAA for further decision.

Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee said that the company management should take note of the feelings

expressed by the villagers during the public hearing, the existing company should provide additional jobs to local people, the company should meet demands of villagers and should help them in the development of the village. Also, project proponent should increase CSR fund as their demands are fair. We will convey the sentiments of people to the government. The company should take villagers into confidence & increase employment potential. There is a big problem of unemployment before the youth. The company should help those on whose land the project is set up after permission is granted.

At last, Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee thanked all the people, representatives for their active participation in the public hearing and after that he declared the public hearing concluded.

The written representations received during the public hearing are enclosed herewith as an **Annexure - II**



(Pramod Mane)
Convener

Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Kolhapur



(Jagannath S. Salunkhe)
Member,

Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer, MPCB, Kolhapur



(Shri Sanjay Teli)
Chairman,

Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur, District - Kolhapur

