

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 6-LANE (GREENFIELD) ACCESS CONTROLLED ECONOMIC CORRIDOR FROM AHMEDNAGAR-SOLAPUR-AKKALKOT SECTION MAHARASHTRA/KARNATAKA BORDER SECTION UNDER BHARATMALA PROJECT TO BE DEVELOPED BY PROJECT PROPONENT NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed Development of 6-Lane (Greenfield) Access Controlled Economic Corridor from Ahmednagar-Solapur-Akkalkot Section Maharashtra/Karnatakka Border Section Under Bharatmala Project to be developed by Project Proponent National Highway Authority of India, Maharashtra was conducted on Wednesday, the 10th January, 2024 at District Niyojan Bhavan, Saat Rasta, Solapur, Maharashtra on 11.00 a.m.

Shri Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Dadasaheb Kamble, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Representative of Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Member 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 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, 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 National Highway Authority of India, Maharashtra to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for their proposed Development of 6-Lane (Greenfield) Access Controlled Economic Corridor from Ahmednagar-Solapur-Akkalkot Section Maharashtra/Karnatakka Border Section Under Bharatmala Project to be developed by Project Proponent National Highway Authority of India, Maharashtra

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of proposed project 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 participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the proposed project.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application 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 17-05-2023.



After sanction from District Collector, Solapur to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Wednesday, the 10th January, 2024 at 11.00 a.m., and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, Gol), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- -92 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 231221- FTS-0121 dated 21/12/2023 as under:-

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

As per 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 for Marathi and in National Newspaper Divya Marathi for English on 10th December, 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) General Manager, District Industries Center, Solapur,;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur;
- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office - Barshi ,Taluka – Barshi, District – Solapur;
- 6) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti-Barshi, Taluka – Barshi, District – Solapur;
- 7) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – South Solapur ,Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur
- 8) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti-South Solapur, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur,
- 9) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Akkalkot, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur
- 10) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Akkalkot, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur
- 11) Gram Panchayat Offices related to Mouje – Nagobachi Wadi, Lakshayachi Wadi, Alipur, Kasarwadi, Balewadi, Kavhe, Dadshinge, Pangaon, Kalegaon, Ghanegaon, Manegaon, Vairag, Sasure, Sarjapur, Kalegaon, Ghanegaon, Manegaon, Wairag, Sasure, Sarjapur, Ratanjan, Hingani (R) , Taluka – Barshi, District – Solapur;



- 12) Gram Panchayat Offices related to Mouje- Tandulwadi, Musti, Dhotri,, Tirtha, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur;
- 13) Gram Panchayat Office related to Mouje – Boregaon, Donbarjavalage, Chapalgaon, Chapalgaon Wadi, Dahitane Wadi, Konhali, Hasapur, Naganhalli villages, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur;
- 14) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 15) Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st,2nd,3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
- 16) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Jog Center, 3rd Floor, Wakadewadi, Old Pune Mumbai Road, Pune - 411 003;
- 17) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, B/4, Bali Building, Civil Lines, Opp. Government Milk Scheme, Saat Rasta, Solapur 413 003
- 18) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai;

Convener informed that suggestion / objection have been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur regarding the proposed project, presentation copy along with CD, field Guide book and other supporting documents received before committee are enclosed with Minutes of Meeting.



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 and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairperson will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the 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 requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation

Chairman remarked that this is Environment Public Hearing. He informed Project Environment Consultant to give presentation regarding the proposed project.

At that time -

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar said that - As some guidelines were made in pursuance of this meeting, we are submitting a statement. He submitted that the fair is going on in Solapur district from today. Many families in the affected villages are involved in their traditional religious rituals due to this . Therefore, the purpose of the meeting that the



affected people come and register their suggestions and objections about the proposed project will not be achieved. Hence, it is our demand that this public hearing be postponed and held later on the next suitable date.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this meeting cannot be cancelled. The views expressed are noted.

2) **Shri Balasaheb Pandurang More, Chairman, Greenfield Highway Sangharsha Committee :-**

Our objection to this meeting is that it was appropriate to hold this meeting before the award. I don't think it is legally correct to call an environmental meeting after the verdict. Our this objection should be registered.

Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that first let everyone watch the whole presentation. Afterwards only, you should register your objections and thoughts before the Environment Public Hearing Committee.

At that time, Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar raised an objection that since this topic was before showing the presentation, the objection is raised.

They objected that the public notice regarding Environmental Public Hearing was not published as directed. Shri Chindarkar objected that it was necessary to publish Marathi and English advertisement in the newspaper.

Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee, said that as per the Notification, it is mandatory to publish a public notice in



the official language of the State Government (here Marathi) in one local newspaper. Accordingly, it was published.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar objected that the tables and maps in the Executive Summary report provided are in English. It is difficult for common people to understand. This is the first problem. Because all Executive Summary reports are expected to be entirely in Marathi. They objected that as per the Notification of 2006, the Executive Summary report was required to be in the official language of the State.

He informed that in the case of Utkarsh Mandal V/s Union of India, Hon'ble Delhi High Court passed the Orders that this responsibility lies with the Applicant i.e. the Project Proponent here. Here the provisions are not followed. Also, the report is made in Marathi, it is Marathi Google language that everyone cannot understand Marathi.

At that time, Project Proponent said that the report was made in Marathi and although the figures in the tables are in English, everyone can understand after reading them.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar objected that the common man is expected to understand the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Longitude and latitude, terrain are written on the report. Common people will not understand this. So what objections, suggestions will be presented?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee, said that Presentation will be shown in Marathi only.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestion is noted. He 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. Hence, as per the procedure laid down, first Presentation should be completed.

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.

Shri Balasaheb Pandurang More, President, Surat-Chennai Greenfield Highway Sangharsha Committee again reiterated that the meeting was expected to be held before the award. It means post-work approval is happening here.

Here, Project Proponent said that judgment means both land acquisition and environment are separate issues. Because both laws are different.



Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar opined that environmental assessment should be done while acquiring the land itself. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the said suggestion is being noted.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar objected that as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 it is mandatory to make all environmental documents available for public inspection at the notified government office 30 days in advance. Solapur Local MPCB office published a public notice of the public hearing in the local newspaper on Sunday, 10th December, 2023, but the release date on reports is Monday, the 11th December, 2023.

Also, no information has been provided here about whether the notified government offices have followed the directives, whether they have made the report available to the local villagers, and also to PAPs – Project Affected Persons.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar further stated that he himself has submitted a letter to Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur asking me to make the Environmental Report document available for study. At that time, the said report was suggested to be downloaded from the website of MPCB. What should a common man who cannot download should do?

At that time, Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that all the directives of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 have been followed. It was made



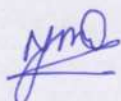
available for public inspection and study at the Government notified offices and project affected gram panchayat offices.

Villagers are expected to go there and take comments and register suggestions or objections in the meeting. Similarly, villagers can register their objections through email, written or physical notice till today. Shri Chindarkar said that environmental documents were not made available by Gram Panchayat office in time.

Shri Balasaheb Pandurang More, President, Surat-Chennai Greenfield Highway Sangharsha Committee opined that it was expected here to call Land Acquisition Officer.

Here, **Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee** explained that as per EIA Notification, 2006 & 2009, Member Secretary of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has constituted a Environment Public Hearing Committee in which District Magistrate or his representative not below the rank of Additional District Magistrate is Chairman of the Committee; Regional Officer of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is Member of the Committee and local Sub Regional Officer of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is Convener of the Committee. Committee is constituted to register the suggestions, views, and objections of the PAPs, villagers, environmentalists in environmental angle only. It is included in the minutes of the meeting. Report is submitted to Central Government and the Expert Committee takes further decision.

Shri Balasaheb Pandurang More, President, Surat-Chennai Greenfield Highway Sangharsha Committee objected that local



farmers, PAPs have raised objections regarding tree assessment (cost of affected trees), well assessment (cost of affected wells) , but it proved of no use. So, what will be the benefit of registering objections here?

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that this is Environmental Public Hearing Committee. Here, views, suggestions or objections in environmental angle in respect of proposed project can be raised. It will be noted and included in the minutes of the meeting and the report will be submitted to Government. Hence, in this Committee, officer of the other departments cannot be included. Participants raised that our objection for not including officer of another department should be noted.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that this is Environmental Public Hearing Committee. Here, views, suggestions or objections in environmental angle in respect of proposed project can be raised. It will be noted and included in the minutes of the meeting and the report will be submitted to Government. There is an Expert Committee and it will take necessary decision.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any objections regarding the procedure. It will be noted. Then the Presentation will be started.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to start the Presentation.

Environment Project Consultant presented the project. He said that this is an Environmental Public Hearing regarding the proposed



six-lane Greenfield Highway Development from Ahmednagar-Solapur-Akkalkot-Maharashtra/Karnataka border area in Maharashtra State under "**Bharat Mala Project**" of National Highways Authority of India, Maharashtra, the Project Proponent.

He informed that 31 villages of Solapur district will be affected by this project. This project is passing through forest area of 1.8 kilometer. It is not passing through Reserved Forest, through National Forest Park forest area.

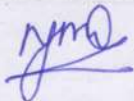
Shri Chindarkar remarked that this should be noted. **Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing**

Committee here remarked that first Presentation should be completed and then suggestions, objections can be raised.

Environmental Consultant informed that 76 kilometer distance of Greenfield road passes through Solapur district. The width of the highway is kept at 60 meters. There are four toll plazas. The hot mix plant is located away from the city to avoid disturbing the local people. Construction in residential areas will be closed from 10.00 pm to 06.00 am. 9,795 trees will be affected for the project, but the programme of replantation of plants/green belt development will be undertaken.

He informed that proposed project passes through 10.4 hector of Reserved Forest. The pits/potholes will be refilled.

Solapur district has 3,573 PAPs (Project Affected Persons) for 614 hectares of land acquisition and compensation procedure for it is in process. 88.000 thousand of trees will be planted on both sides of the road. Rain water harvesting system will be implemented. Fly ash for the project will be made available from NTPC, Solapur and Parali.



Project Consultant informed the detailed social benefits of the project.

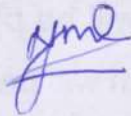
After the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their views, suggestions or objections in respect of the proposed project in environmental angle only. While informing the suggestions, full name, residential address and if working on behalf of the Institute, inform the name of the Institute.

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 Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar, President, GID Foundation, Solapur :-

The tables with Marathi figures in the presentation are different from the figures in the EIA report made available for public viewing. The project summary and presentation are different and the presentation contains misleading information. Project summary and presentation are completely different. If the survey is carried, I then whether it is a biological survey? If so, say Yes or No.

Project Proponent said that a biological survey has been carried. Shri Chindarkar asked the next question that whether the Committee which conducted the actual survey is present here? Will you present the raw data before the Committee which made during the survey?



Project Proponent said that it will be made available on demand. At that time Shri Chindarkar demanded that the raw data should be submitted before the Environment Public Hearing Committee.

Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report is ready and it has been made available. But if Shri Chindarkar desires raw data, then it should be made available.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that if there is specific requirement of report, then it should be made here at this moment.

Here, Shri Chindarkar objected that the Project Proponent had not taken prior permission of the concerned Government departments while publishing the data/recording in the EIA report, which is mandatory.

It means if you are going to enter the civil area, it is mandatory to take the prior permission of the Competent-Authority of the government, if it is the Forest Department, then the prior permission of the respective Competent-Authority of the Government is to be obtained. If Bio-logical survey is to be carried, then prior permission of Biological board is required. Are Project Proponent aware of this?

At that time, Project Proponent replied that as per Section 3A of National High Way Act, 1956 - we get the right to survey the area.

Shri Chindarkar objected that under Section 7 of the Bio-Diversity Act, 2002, the prior permission was mandatory. However, you have taken samples from there without the permission of Bio-Diversity

NMD

Board, Maharashtra State. Project Proponent informed that we have already given them and then survey is carried.

Shri Chindarkar said that if you have taken permission under Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, it should be submitted before the Environmental Public Hearing Committee.

Environment Consultant said that there is a Bio-Diversity Board under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change grants ToR. Apart from that, we are giving information about the survey.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here directed that if written permission is obtained, the proof should be made available. If Not, then next question should be taken:

Shri Chindarkar replied that I have three questions – whether the biological survey was conducted, whether the biological samples were collected and whether the report was published. If prior written permission of Bio-Diversity Board, Maharashtra State is obtained for the same, it should be submitted here.

If it has not been taken then it should be said No, if Yes, then the information should be submitted to the Committee today, because the proceedings of the meeting will end today.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the RV organization appointed by the National Highway, entered the bio-diversity resource area, collected the biological samples there and was going to use it for commercial use. The data collected is confidential data. He published it. It is an offense under the Biodiversity Act, 2002. This organization is from Hyderabad and outside Maharashtra. The samples were taken to



Hyderabad for analysis. Permission of the Competent-Authority has not been taken for taking it outside the Maharashtra State. That data is made available on public website. I am alleging before the District Magistrate that they seem intent on mis-using it.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed if written permission is obtained, then it should be submitted. If not, then it should be informed.

Here Project Proponent objected that Shri Chinarkar said the information was used for commercial purposes. But the said project belongs to the Central Government. Shri Chindarkar said I am speaking as per Government Gazette.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project and Project Proponent & Environment Consultant will give answers.

At that time, Project Proponent replied that the highway project is being done for the service and needs of the people. Therefore, the information is not used for commercial purposes. This is a government project for the people. Shri Chindarkar asserted here that I am registering allegations, objections as per the Government Gazette.

Here **Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee** appealed all to raise the suggestions, objections in detail.

Here again Shri Chindarkar & Other participants demanded to give answer regarding whether the permission is sought or not?

Project Proponent informed that the study is carried as per ToR which is granted by the Govt. of India.



At that time, Shri Chindarkar pointed out that Project Proponents are misleading. He read out the Government Gazette. Here, Environmental Consultant said that this suggestion is for organizations that conduct research. Here we have authority as per ToR. We have informed Biological Board.

Shri Chindarkar objected that Project officials is misleading by not answering the question whether prior permission was obtained under the Bio-diversity Rules, 2002 and under the Maharashtra Bio-diversity Rules, 2008.

Project Proponent informed that the said project belongs to the Central Government, hence it is not applicable to us. At that time, all those present demanded that the answer be yes or no.


Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed to clearly give the answers.

Project Proponent informed that we work as per N.H. Notification,

All the participants objected that this means that Project Proponent has not taken prior permission.

Shri Chindarkar said that you say Yes or No. Needless to say, there are fees and forms to be filled. For that, the Bio-diversity Committee has to come forward, the Bio-diversity Committee has to approve the resolution. The answer should be clear.

Environmental Consultant said that we have not taken prior permission from the Bio-diversity Department. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that it will be recorded in the minutes.



Environmental Consultant said that we have conducted the survey as per the ToR guidelines, as approved by the Government of India for the project as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

Shri Chindarkar further objected that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was not made available in the official language of the State.

Shri Chindarkar further objected that whether the ToR issues have been taken up in the project summary? He asked that whether TOR is attached with the Executive Summary Report? Shri Chindarkar suggested that the Introduction of the EIA report should be shown on the screen.

The villagers present in the meeting raised a collective objection that Project Proponent have not done anything, only all the matters have been written in the report. They objected that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Executive Summary Report were not made available to the villagers at the Gram Panchayat office.

Shri Chetan Jadhav (Pethanewadi), Shri Mukund Rabade (Dhanegaon, Taluka -Barshi), Shri Maruti Vishwanath (Barshi) and other people raised objection that the EIA report, Executive Summary Report were not received at Grampanchayat and Nagar Palika offices.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the land was acquired by determining the market price without considering the medicinal value plants and trees on the plot.

He again objected that information about the relevant public hearing, the report was not displayed on the notice board in the notified



government offices. Similarly, any documents should be made available in the official language of the state of Maharashtra.

Shri Chindarkar and others demanded that the ToR approved by the Government of India should be shown on the screen

He objected that Executive Summary at page no. I mention that the ToR is attached. It should be shown. We object that in the Executive Summary Report EN.1 Introduction four nos - The paragraph states that an EIA must be made available. But it is not made available even in the meeting hall.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee suggested that the EIA be shown now if it can be shown. If not, it should be stated.

Here, **Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee** directed to show Annexure – I.

Shri Chindarkar asked to show EIA and EMP on screen.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the CD which was sent to the Gram Panchayat office did not contain the report. Also, it should be verified whether the report on CD given to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the report here is the same.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the report presented by the Project Consultant to the Environment Public Hearing Committee during the public hearing meeting, before the villagers present, was incomplete. The report was not in the format in which it was submitted.

Shri Chindarkar suggested to show Annexure – 1.



Here, **Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee** directed Project Proponent to show Annexure – I in the CD.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee directed to note that it could not be shown.

Shri Chindarkar here said that Project Proponent here accepted that they have not attached Annexure-1.

Shri Chindarkar here suggested to inform ToR in the meeting.

Shri Chindarkar suggested to explain the compliance of ToR. Also, asked to read the Expert Declaration. Environmental consultant Rajdeep was asked whether he is ready to take responsibility for the entire report. He accepted it.

Environmental Consultant said that as per ToR , there was base line data survey. Base line survey is done after receipt of TOR. Now the methodology was asked. In it, water, air, soil are surveyed.

Shri Chindarkar asked that an explanation be given as to how the survey was conducted. An explanation should be given about how you prepared the raw data. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested to register objections.

Shri Chindarkar objected that Project Environment Consultant says that they have visited various villages and conducted surveys. So, how many people in the village have seen them? He asked again whose farm they have visited, surveyed and took the sample/s, whether they gave one part to the farmer and took the other for analysis ?

Shri Chindarkar objected that Environmental Consultant had not gone to take samples from any of the farms. A collective negative response was given by all farmers to the question, "Would it be



acceptable to you if a mutualist/Unknown person take samples from your farm without your approval?"

Environment Consultant asked to see air pollution survey page no. 52.

Shri Chindarkar while looking at the photo asked where are the local farmers? At that time, Project Consultant said that the fourth photo was a local farmer.

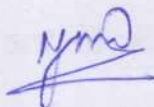
Shri Chindarkar objected that after seeing the photograph, he said that the photograph was taken while the farmer was working in the field.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions, objections be raised.

Shri Chindarkar, while registering the objection, asked that from where the sample was taken, the batch no. He asked the present farmers that if soil sample, bore water sample is taken from the field without your consent, do you consent to it? All the farmers together gave a negative answer.

A farmer who was present said that while the workers were working, the soil was taken away, they said that they were taking the soil for soil testing.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the samples were collected without the prior permission of the farmers and without the prescribed procedures and rules. Hence, the sampling and survey carried cannot be legally recognized



acceptable to you if a mutualist/Unknown person take samples from your farm without your approval?"

Environment Consultant asked to see air pollution survey page no. 52.

Shri Chindarkar while looking at the photo asked where are the local farmers? At that time, Project Consultant said that the fourth photo was a local farmer.

Shri Chindarkar objected that after seeing the photograph, he said that the photograph was taken while the farmer was working in the field.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions, objections be raised.

Shri Chindarkar, while registering the objection, asked that from where the sample was taken, the batch no. He asked the present farmers that if soil sample, bore water sample is taken from the field without your consent, do you consent to it? All the farmers together gave a negative answer.

A farmer who was present said that while the workers were working, the soil was taken away, they said that they were taking the soil for soil testing.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the samples were collected without the prior permission of the farmers and without the prescribed procedures and rules. Hence, the sampling and survey carried cannot be legally recognized



Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that only objections should be raised as much as possible. Shri Chindarkar said that it is not proved that water and air samples were taken from the said locations. So, we object to this false report.

At this time, Project Proponent said that according to the Highway Act, we have the right to go to any farm and collect samples. Even if the plot is private, once it is notified, there is a right to take samples from it. Hence, we object that sampling without permission is illegal.

Shri Chindarkar objected that Project Consultant has prepared the report without any site visit. Also, any sample collected as per the prescribed procedures is invalid. The EIA report prepared by them is based on bogus data.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Consultant to give explanations on the objections raised. Environment Consultant answered that we have given evidence with photos. Also our Experts were present at the time of sampling and survey.

Shri Chindarkar demanded that give us the report, the expert person and the collected samples. Village sarpanch or two persons from village should give such proof as Refree/Panch.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to register any environmental objections.

Shri Chindarkar blamed that project consultant has not provided any evidence of collection of samples and hence appealed to make it



available. Primary data sheet if available should be made available. Environmental Consultant said that although it is not available now, it will be made available. Shri Chindarkar objected that the data was not prepared as per prescribed scientific procedure.

Shri Chindarkar objected that Project Consultant took the samples to Hyderabad from where objections were registered, containing samples of biological resources. The samples which have been collected have natural ingredients.

Environmental Consultant said that all samples are analyzed by us in NABL approved laboratory. Shri Chindarkar questioned whether the natural resources for bio-diversity have been collected by you.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed that those who want to raise any suggestions, objections may raise their hands. The mike will be provided at the sitting place. While raising suggestions/objections, full name and name of the village should be informed.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar asked villagers who were present whether you agree to speak on behalf of villagers. Villagers gave permission to speak on behalf of the village and the villagers to Chindarkar.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar asked whether monitoring done by you in the project area, i.e. water, air, bio-diversity, Are the samples available?



Project Consultant said that samples have not been collected, but what is identified/observed have been recorded.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar opined that without prior permission of the respective Gram Panchayats, you have collected the soil samples from here at your convenience, analysed it in your laboratory at Hyderabad and published the results. Are you going to use it for commercial use?

Project Proponent answered that the report which was published, was published only for the interest of public.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar said to explain the method followed while collecting the samples.

Project consultant said that the samples have been collected at different locations as per the directives of the Government. For this, the accepted scientific method was followed.

Shri Chindarkar asked which scientific procedure was followed?

Environmental Consultant is informed that an explanation should be given regarding which scientific procedure was used. He should give the answers. If not, then, he should say.

Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the concerned participant objected that you (Environment Consultant) have not collected the samples as per the scientific procedures. If Yes, it should be explained.

Shri Chindarkar objected that Project Environment Consultant does not know the scientific procedure, so they have not collected



samples scientifically. He asked detailed information about the remaining parts of the collected samples. All the questions should be answered. If you are not giving answers, then also it should be informed. Because it was necessary, moreover mandatory to collect the samples before villagers of the respective villages by following due scientific procedures. You have collected the samples in absence of the villagers interactively and fixed agriculture land prices for compensation. Our many agriculture farm land is shown as barren land. All the villagers, farmers wholeheartedly supported this point.

Here, **Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** remarked that this is Environment Public Hearing and the issues of land acquisition, valuation and compensation does not fall under the jurisdiction of this Committee. It is several appealed to raise any suggestions, views or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only.

Shri Balasaheb Pandurang More, Chairman, Greenfield High-Way Sangharsha Committee informed that the farmers of Akkalkot Taluka North, South and Barshi have given full authority to Shri Chindarkar to speak and plead on behalf of them.

Shri Pankaj Prakash Chindarkar started asking questions about soil survey. At that time, Project Proponent said that page no. 47 provides information about air pollution survey. Shri Chindarkar objected that when asked about the soil survey, the project officer is giving information about air pollution.



Here Chairman of the Committee directed Project Proponent that only the questions asked should be answered. Answer is to be given regarding soil sampling. An answer should be given as to whether the soil sample was collected scientifically.

Environment Consultant here informed that on page no.82, method of soil survey is given. The farmers present at that time demanded the project promoters to give the presentation in Marathi or Hindi.

Convener of the Committee here clarified that whether scientific procedure is followed while collecting and analysing the soil samples should be explained in detail.

Project Consultant read out the information about how they did analysis of soil samples. At that time, Shri Chindarkar objected that they are now telling how the samples were analyzed, when asked how soil samples were collected? Project Consultant said that the samples were collected as per the directives of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Shri Chindarkar objected that Project Consultant did not know how to take direct samples, and Project Proponent were only mentioning the name of CPCB. It means the samples taken by them are bogus. Chairman said that this objection has been noted.

Shri Chindarkar said that if soil is tested in the survey, how and where you are going to use the soil?



Here, Project Proponent said that the purpose of this survey is to know the current/present soil condition and the difference in soil quality after the project is fully operational.

Project Proponent said that Environmental Consultant has conducted a soil study to prepare the report. The survey is for what the current soil condition is. Whether to use the soil here for the project or not, the Administration decides according to the situation at that time and the cost for it.

Shri Chindarkar objected that even though Project Proponent is misleadingly saying that the report was done for research purposes it is flat out false. They are going to use the mud here for the project.

At that time, Project Proponent objected to this and said that it was a misrepresentation. The said survey is done only for research and while constructing the highway, there is a different technique (mode) for the project, according to which the soil will be checked and if it is suitable, it will be used.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Shri Chindarkar to raise the objections point to point.

Shri Chindarkar objected that how many people were there during the survey, how many scientists, technicians, as in the report it is wrote only as representatives. Also, information should be given about how many kilometers the project is, which village it is passing through.

[Handwritten signature]

Here, Chairman Environment Public Hearing Committee again asked to raise suggestions/objections only. It will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Shri Chindarkar objected back and said that the project report stated that all the project areas were surveyed, leaving a gap of 5.0 meters on the left and right sides of the road. The village where the said project will not have much impact, that village has also been surveyed. My objection is that no such survey has been conducted.

Shri Chindarkar questioned that the map shows Akkalkot to Ahmednagar. How many areas are surveyed in total and what is its criteria?

At that time, Project Proponent replied that 500.0 has been surveyed on both sides. Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee has demanded the data and suggested to tell it.

Project Proponent replied that as much surveying and sampling as the stretch of highway has been done.

Shri Chindarkar asked that the highway is six-lane and at how many meters were the samples taken? Project Promoter said that sampling was done in 60 meter.

Shri Chindarkar objected that they are misleading. In the report, it is mentioned as 500 – 500 meters.

Project Consultant stated that there was a ROW. If it reaches 60 meters, there is another influence zone. It is 500 meters. It is as per guidelines.



At that time, Shri Chindarkar objected that if they are going to take our land, they should inform the people. He objected that Project Proponent did not have the surveyed map.

Project Consultant said that the survey was carried within the radius of 10 km of the project. The area is divided, does not go beyond 500 meters. It was informed that there is information on page no. 101. 500 meters has been taken as per Notification.

Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to raise objections.

At that time, Shri Chindarkar said that we should give information about the location, where the sample was taken. Environmental consultant said that there is a mention in that regard on page no.41. - Within 60 meters or 500 meters either side.

Shri Chindarkar said that Project Proponent will use the natural resources here for this project. He objected that they are not saying it now.

Project Proponent informed that as per EIA Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to carry the survey in the radius of 10 k.m. of the project.

At this time, Shri Chindarkar objected that under the environmental survey, it is understood that the natural resources of the area will be used to protect commercial interests. Because using the good water here will have an effect on the environment here.

Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that here Briefly explain the main purpose of your survey.



Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that objection as raised by Shri Chindarkar should be noted as Project Proponent has not mention the purpose of survey.

Environmental Consultant said that on Page No.2, Heading no. 1.2, Objectives have been given. He read it in English. He said that this study is done to determine the current state of the environment in the project area and the future impact due to the impact of the project. This means that a separate survey is required, prior permission of the Bio-Diversity Board is required. This means that the natural resources required for the project will be used only from this environmental data.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee opined here that Mr. Chinderkar's objection was that he would use the report for commercial interests. Project Proponent said that this is a preliminary report and if they want to use the natural resources here, they will have to carry again a survey. For that, approval from the Competent - Authority is required.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that if Shri Chindarkar thinks the report is false, then he should express such opinion, it will be recorded.

Shri Chindarkar opined that we have objections only to this complete report. Chairman said that he had taken note and Government will take appropriate decision regarding the said minutes and reports.

Chairman of the Committee said that the issues raised in the meeting were being recorded. Environmental Consultant said that if



the said person gives a written objection, a written reply will be given to it.

Member of the Committee appealed to Shri Chinderkar to raise objections and suggestions only to the point.

Shri Chindarkar said that the villagers have the first right to use the natural resources of the area. The intention seems to be to encroach on the rights of the villagers and use it for commercial purposes without giving any compensation, without equal distribution of the benefits and without benefiting the village.

Chairman of the Committee said that he had taken note.

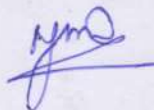
Here Member of the Committee opined that objections should be filed point wise.

Shri Chindarkar asked whether compliance with ToR was given. It should be shown where is in your report.

Chairman and members suggested to Mr. Chinderkar that the necessary issue in TOR should be asked. It will be answered by the Environmental Consultant.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee told the Project Environmental Consultant that the first point of the ToR should be briefed to the villagers in Marathi. After this, the Project Promoter was told that 0.18 hectares of forest land has to be acquired for Solapur district and a brief statement was submitted in this regard.

Shri Chindarkar objected that there is no corridor for wildlife. How many days of survey was conducted for that. You haven't done it.



At that time, Project Proponent said that the report of Wild Life Institute, Dehradun will also be obtained.

Shri Chindarkar asked whether the oral discussions were mentioned in the report, No contact mentioned anywhere.

Environmental Consultant said that after discussing with the Forest Department, they were with us in the survey. Member suggested to register objection.

Shri Chindarkar objected that it is mentioned in the report that no wild life activity was observed. That is, on one side they write that wild life activity was not seen and on the other side they write that wild life activity was seen.

Project Proponent replied that as there is a corridor for tigers, it is not here. But there is occasional wildlife movement, hence corridor is planned for it.

At that time, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested Shri Chindarkar to register objections on point.

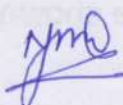
Secondary data taken, no acknowledgment –

When asked by the Member, he said that he had not attached it.

Member suggested to take up the next point. -

There is a discrepancy in Bio-diversity data.

Project Proponent said it has been answered. No specific corridor is designated. But where wildlife is found relevant, underpasses have been arranged.



Also in one place it is called grassland, while in another it is written that there is no dense forest. Objection is that grass land biodiversity has not been considered.

Here, Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that if at all Project Proponent does not give answer here, he has to answer the same before the Expert Committee and in sometimes, New ToR is again has to obtain.

Shri Chindarkar, while objecting, said that in the report forest means tall trees. Tigers, lions do not mean animals. Grassland is also a forest. But in the report, it is written that there is no forest.

Representative of Member of the Committee said that Shri Chindarkar's point is that the Project Proponents have not conducted a study on grass land diversity, it has been noted.

Environmental Consultant said that a committee has been appointed by the Forest Department for Solapur district and where there are grass lands, the information has been collected by the forest department and it will be included in the final EIA.

Shri Chindarkar objected that grass land diversity Animal Identification and species have not been done by the Environmental Consultant Committee.

Representative, Member of the Committee said that question should not be asked about grass land diversity.

At that time, Environmental Consultant said that on page no. 110, point 2.9 it is mentioned. Shri Chindarkar suggested that the original survey data, if any, should be shown.



Convener of the Committee asked that the inspection report on the field will be available?

Shri Chindarkar said that this data is misleading and presented the diary of Biodiversity of Solapur district to the Environment Committee and requested to send this diary along with the minutes to the Expert Committee. Chairman of the Committee agreed to this.

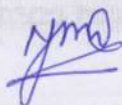
Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise hands whom have to submit their suggestions or objections orally.

2) Shri Mukund Shankar Dabhade, Dhanegaon Resident, Gut No537/6, Project Affected Farmer :-

There is complete slope on my plot. This road crosses. Water flows on my land, there is a stream below. The water coming from above will block the road below. There are 10-15 gut numbers on top, their water comes to my farm. Even if there is a bridge over the stream, the water will not go away completely. It was seen in the news that there have been many such problems on Samriddhi High Way. There is Pond of 10-15 acres. My land is only 170 acres. 35 Gunthas of land have been acquired. I got very less compensation. Now I will be a minor land owner.

If my farm gets waterlogged, to whom can I complain or what is the provision?

Project Proponent replied that the structure has been provided only after studying the drainage and rainfall. However, there will be no water in your field, but it will flow through streams and drains.



At that time, Shri Mukund Dabhade said that such a meeting has been held before. At that time, officials said that a pipeline would be laid at 500 meters.

It was answered that it would be put to use. We now provide 3 meter x 3 meter boxes. It's going to be in every group.

3) Shri Om Prakash Khajirao Patil, Gut No. 413, 414, Pangaon, Taluka – Barshi, District – Solapur -

I have land. There is a side stream. The land affected by water will get compensation, but the land affected by the project will not get compensation. I am about to be displaced, but I am suffering huge losses.. Our suggestion is that it is necessary to come here in person and do a survey. My problems should be solved. After the counting, not a single official moved here. However, one should actually come and inspect and remove the obstacles.

**4) Shri Santosh Bharat Jamdade & Suresh Bharat Jamdade Residence – Pangaon, Taluka – Barshi, District – Solapur
Arjun Sagle – Residence-Pangaon, Taluka – Barshi, District – Solapur -**

My One acre 55 R land will be acquired. They gave me a notice of 72 Guntha. There is a difference in counting.

At that time, Shri Omprakash Khajirao Patil objected that on paper the land is shown less, but actually there is more land. He said he has taken follow up for this. Now I got tired of writing letters to the collector's office.

All the farmers asked about land compensation.



Project Proponent said that many farmers of Pangaon are present here, they have land acquisition issues. Next week, a meeting will be held in the collector's office exclusively for Pangaon villagers. At that time the farmers demanded to hold a meeting of Barshi Taluka itself. The project promoter agreed.

Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that for Land acquisition and compensation, there is different platform. Here please raise environmental issues for the proposed project only.

5) Shri Ashish Kumbhar, Residence – Nagnari village, Gut No.75 :-

In the meeting, preparations have been made to prepare the drain. So can you provide the blue print?

Project Proponent said that there is a demarcation of the natural drains. So a blueprint of what to do should be given there. The project promoter said that it will be made available.

Here, the Project Proponent said that during the planning, no obstacle has been created in the natural water flow. Also, the 2013 Act provides compensation to the victims.

Farmers in the meeting here collectively said that we will not allow the road to be built unless our issues are resolved.

11) Shri Mane -

I live in another village in south Solapur, but my farm is in Goregaon in Akkalkot taluka. Wrote repeated letters to Land Acquisition Officer, but still no reply. A road has passed through my land, and its rate has been



reduced, leaving five guntas on one side and eleven guntas on the other side.

Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the issue is being raised. At that time, some farmers demanded that the remaining land should be taken by the Government and compensation should be paid.

Shri Balasaheb More objected that the process of land acquisition is carried out by the Land Acquisition Department and Road Development Corporation, the assessment of trees and ponds is not carried on site. Due to this, injustice has been done to the farmers. However, we request that the process of land acquisition should be cancelled and a new process should be carried out. We are against all land acquisition process.

Another objection is that the Road Development Corporation is building a road worth forty thousand crores. And only 5 lakhs are being paid to the farmers. We request that for 40 thousand crores company is doing toll collection work for 20 years, while paying low prices it is causing loss. Our demand is to give a twenty-two-year contract to the company for road and toll collection worth forty-five thousand crores and give increased price to the farmers.

Project Proponent said that we had constituted a joint team, our photos with the farmers of each group are on the site. We have tried to complete it by right way only. We have land records from 1856. It has also been corrected and we have corrected record also. We have gone to the site and taken photos of the farmer.



Chairman of the Committee said that land acquisition is done in two ways, one is with consent, the other is if there is no consent, a Notification has to be issued.

13) Shri Santosh Bharat Jamdade, Gat No. 1554, Residence – Pangaon, Taluka – Barshi, District – Solapur:-

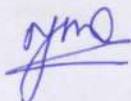
My farmpond/Shet Tale is 250 X 160, fill height 44 feet. It is right in the middle of the road. But it is rated 100 X 100. Twenty five lakh rupees have been spent on it. My entire Shet Tale/Farm Pond base has been acquired and I have been paid only five lakhs.

Shri Chindarkar said that there are water conservation projects for environment and sustainable development. They have saved and stored the rain water. It is being used by other farmers along with Mr. Jamdade. The benefit of that farm has not been considered. However, its Environmental Value should be determined.

Chairman opined that further action will be taken as per the government decision.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all participants that after completion of the public hearing, if anybody desires to submit written suggestions, objections, it can be submitted.

Shri Chindalkar asked to take and read page no. 15. Requirement of natural resources for the project – It is directly written here that natural resources are required for this project. Next page no. 17, 18 – The Environmental Consultant explained that the technical aspects of the entire project were given. It mentions the tools required for the project and their quantities. It is not final but roughly stated.



Shri Chindalkar objected that the project would require 40,000.0 liters of water per day. Local residents have the first right to the natural water sources there. According to the Bio-Diversity Act, if water is taken from a village pond, the village has to share the benefit equally.

In the report, it is written that the village water supply will be done by rainwater harvesting. For that, pits are going to be dig on the side of the road, while water is going to be taken from a pond at a distance of 500 meters from the road.

In the last five years, Collector's office has spent for water scarcity. Last year the figure was 11 crores, this year it has crossed 55 crores.

Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Project Proponent might have ear-marked some fund for Rain Water Harvesting.

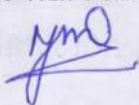
Objection is noted that there is no mention of reserve of funds for the same, but a specific amount should be reserved for the same.

Project Proponent informed that Rain Water Harvesting is part of the project. Fund will be reserved for it..

Chairman of the Committee asked if you are going to take water from the village for the project, how will you compensate for the loss of water there? What provision has been made for it.

Project Proponent said that rain water harvesting has been done along the road every 500 meters.

Shri Chindarkar demanded that the Project Proponent is going to implement rain water harvesting scheme in the village.



Project Proponent said that the lake in Walse village of Solapur district was deepened, and also the lakes were deepened at 84 places in various villages. So where Gram Panchayat, District Administration gives permission, it will be done.

Shri Chindarkar said that a provision has been made for this in the Bio-Diversity Act itself. My first objection is that the permission of the Bio-Diversity Board has not been taken.

Chairman of the Committee asked for information about the Bio-Diversity Board, which was given by Mr. Chindarkar.

Chairman of the Committee directed Project Proponent to make provisions as per Bio-Diversity Act as per rules. He said that project proponent have to follow the directives of Bio-Diversity Board.

Shri Chindarkar said that - The suggestion is that unless the benefits from sustainable use of biological resources are equitably shared, budgeted for, not to grant environmental clearance, we demand clearly.

At that time, Environmental Consultant said that a plan for Bio-Diversity is being prepared. Four crore rupees have been reserved for this.

Here, Shri Chindarkar said that it is necessary to have an agreement for that. It is necessary to give such a plan. It is necessary to provide Bio-Diversity Plan along with the Environment Management Plan.



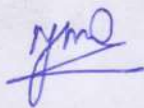
Here, Project Proponent said that there are Competent-Authorities in India to implement any rule. Consent shall be obtained as and when required or as directed.

Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined here that Shri Chindarkar's suggestion is that a plan for Bio-Diversity restoration has not been prepared by the Project Proponent. So, the Bio-Diversity Plan should be prepared and the amount of funds should be reserved for it every year and all those plans should be submitted. This should be recorded in the revised EIA report.

Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that in the meeting there is draft EIA report and suggestions, objections will noted and then revised EIA will be prepared.

Shri Chindarkar objected that we have a clear demand that unless the benefits of sustainable use of biological resources of the bio-diversity of Solapur district are shared equally, the budget is not given, and the agreement is not signed, project should not even get the environmental clearance. Natural resources include water, soil. Stones will be removed, which means that the bio-mass will be destroyed.

Also there is a traditional Gai Ran /Cow Grazing space/forest in the village. The people of the village maintain it. The livestock of the village lives on it, so the people get milk. Project Proponent are going to destroy the bio-mass there for their commercial gain. How to compensate him?



Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Government has already notified certain areas in each village for Gai Ran/Cow grazing space.

But if there is private land, how we can control their activities?

Shri Chindarkar objected that private land owner do give their area on rent for animal grazing – cows, buffaloes, lamps on annual basis. Here in local language it is called as "Khandan." Due to this project, it will be destroyed and who will pay compensation for this? Then what about gobar loss?

Also, the employment of village boys who bring cows, buffaloes for grazing will be affeted. How will they be compensated? The village potter brings the local soil and makes the pot. The vaidu of the village brings medicinal plants and gives the medicines to the poor in the village. How they will be compensated?

Hence, efforts are being made to destroy the livelihood of many people in the village, on whom they depend.

Project Proponent said that we will not take any government land, but will take further decisions only after discussing with the private land owner and getting their consent. So, the next question will not arise.

Shri Chindarkar said that you are going to dig mines for stone extraction, have you done any study on its impact on the environment?

Project Proponent said that this is a temporary plan and when there is a consensus on this, individual agreements will be made with them and all government directives will be followed. Project Proponent said that all government directives regarding mining will be foilowed.

Shri Chindarkar raised the issue regarding wild animals.



At that time, Chairman and Representative, Member said that they have registered the objections that there is no separate corridor for water, flora and fauna, wild animals and if there are others, they should be registered.


Shri Chindarkar in TOR issue no. 4 – Suggestions, objections can be registered on the plan without receiving it. That is not the plan. Here, the Environmental Consultant said that mitigation measures have to be reported, on which the plan is approved by the Government of India subject to the terms and conditions. Agreements are made according to those terms and conditions. He said that the data of the old road kill has been made available.

We have been surveyed and Indian Wild Life Agency, Dehradun has been invited as a third party. Their report is awaited. After that, the Forest Department gives permission to the forest department for the track and road.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the project promoter had not made the report available. They objected that the Project Proponent has not submitted a Wild Life Conservation Plan.

Representative, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee stated that the Project Proponent is not an Authorized Agency for Wild Life Conservation Plan. The forest department has that data – about domestic animals in the area, area, Gai Ran-Cow Grazing Space, as well as wildlife habitat.

Shri Chintarkar opined that it was expected to form a Joint Action Team in this regard.



Environmental Consultant said that you just said that 12 blackbucks had fallen under the car and died. So the forest department gave us a plan for that.

Representative, Member said that Shri Chinderkar said that you should adopt a flexible policy regarding this wildlife scheme. A survey should be conducted. Because the habitat, movement of animals is constantly changing. This scheme project is under implementation.

Project Proponent said that as per the suggestion of Shri Chindarkar, a Committee will be constituted permanently in this regard. According to the movement of wildlife, construction of corridors, removal of underpasses should be implemented. Black bugs never go through underpasses, they run over the road. Attaching the Marathi table in that regard with the report.

Chairman suggested that environmental issues should be discussed in the proceedings of the meeting.

Here Chindarkar objected that the road was passing through 600 meters of Highly Sensitive Area.

At that time, Project Proponent said that the organization of Ahmedabad has done the alignment of the said road and its forest department. That organization has a map of all forest areas in India. Suppose the notified area is 400 meters, then we have kept 600 meters. The presentation was made before a committee of the Government of India consisting of Secretaries of Railways, Forests, Defense Departments.



Chairman of the Committee said that a note has been taken in this regard. The map will be submitted to the government along with the report.

Chairman of the Committee asked to inform how many meters the road is from the shelter. Project Proponent said the nearest road is 600 meters away. Shri Chindarkar said, I am giving suggestions, even recommendations.

Project Proponent said that the road has been designed according to the government's policy, reports and documents. The instructions of the forest department have been followed in this regard.

Shri Chindarkar, while objecting, asked for the time in the survey. Opinions were expressed that it was necessary to conduct a survey in the forest department day and night. Shri Chindarkar said that there is a forest department. There is no corridor.

Chairman of the Committee said that objections regarding the survey have been noted and also objection of Shri Chindarkar that the road distance from the sanctuary is short is noted.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the Project Proponent says that there is no endangered species here, but the forest department mentions that there are endangered species here and the project proponent has not conducted any survey in this regard. Although there are endangered species here, no project is implemented in this regard.

One million rupees are given to the Crocodile Project in Karnataka. However, Project Proponent must provide funds for such endangered species. That is our demand.



Chairman of the Committee said that he has taken note of this suggestion. Project Proponent said that the provision will be made after the report of the wildlife department.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that Mr. Chinderkar is saying that the movement of wildlife, their habitat is changing. A permanent fund should be provided to monitor the same.

Project Proponent said that the National High Way Authority is a government organization and does not have CSR.

Shri Chindarkar objected that in the last meeting, the CSR was given to the Forest Department. Project Proponent said that the condition laid down by the forest department in that particular project was fulfilled.

Shri Chindarkar demanded to give it here.

Chairman of the Committee said that he has taken note of this issue.

Chairman of the Committee told Shri Chindarkar and all present that whatever points are expected to come up in the agenda, they should be submitted in written form. They will be submitted to the government.

Shri Chindarkar objected that the Project Proponent was appointing external agencies even though the local bodies were competent for certain tasks. Local organizations are being turned down even though they can provide full-time work, while outside agencies are being recruited to provide part-time work.

Shri Chindarkar objected that nine thousand trees are going to be cut for this project.



Chairman of the Committee suggested to the NHA that the Forest Department should demand a transit pass here.

Project Proponent said that the forest department allows cutting of trees. After cutting the tree, the forest department inspects it and passes it separately. The participants collectively said that it was the responsibility of the National Highway, as the traffic would be on that road.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that only the contractor who cuts the trees should be notified that he will not be allowed to transport the National Highway unless he obtains a transit pass.

Project Proponent assured that this would be noted in the contract. At that time as objected by Mr.Chinderkar here the condition is always on the contractor but it is not followed, therefore the Competent Officer of National Highways must be present there and take vigilance.

It is also necessary to have a Competent-Officer of the forest department present while cutting the trees. The President has taken note of this issue and instructions are given to take action in this regard in future.

It is also necessary to have a competent officer of the forest department present while cutting the trees.

Chairman of the Committee has taken note of this issue and instructions are given to take action in this regard in future.

Project Proponent opined that Shri Chindarkar's demand is that even if there is no Eco-Sensitive Zone, the National Highway Authority must provide some funds to the Forest Department every year for forest



restoration. This will be noted and communicated to senior level management.

Shri Chindarkar said that there is also a forest area where 500 deer cross the road from the road at Century. There are parts of it in Solapur district. The poor people here arrange water for them in summer. The villagers keep a little crop in the fields for their own food. Animals also do have traditional knowledge of where to go to drink water. Once a project is set up, they do not notice it at all. The herd moves 15-25 km.

Chairman of the Committee inquired whether such patches were here. It will be sent along with the report

Shri Chindarkar said that there is a forest area across the road, it needs to be studied and planned. In which area there is forest area, which species of animals are there, their habitat, movement are all studied. It is necessary to keep them free on the lines through which they pass.

He said that accidents and deaths of animals are happening in Solapur-Akkalkotla Boramani. There road is a leak/sloping. Oghal means uphill on both sides of the road. Animals cross the road through the drain. There is no major underpass, which was essential Or at least there was a need of fly over bridge. This can be said by the forest workers there. Do you have a forest worker in your committee? It benefits.

Chairman of the Committee asked the Project Proponent to bring this suggestion/related matter to the notice of the Forest Department.

Shri Chindarkar demanded here that today's public hearing is expected to have forest department officials also.



Chairman of the Committee said that the said public hearing was conducted as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended 2009. The committee consists of District Magistrate or his representative as Chairman, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board as Member and Sub Regional Officer of local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board as Convener.

In the discussion, Chairman suggested the Project Proponent to organize a joint meeting of the District Collector, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, local people's representatives, Municipal Administration regarding the matter as per the demand of the local people here.

Project Proponent said that the EIA report is a draft. Considering the suggestions and objections in the meeting, a revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) will be prepared and submitted to the government

Shri Chindarkar said that every question here has a solution. At that time, the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that it would be better if Shri Chindarkar and all the other participants submit written suggestions and objections.

Participants said that very nominal compensation has been received by the farmers. However, a proposal to increase the compensation should be sent. Project Proponent said that a meeting is scheduled for next week.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that this public hearing was a marathon



meeting. Many issues were discussed in the meeting. Local farmers said that we are not opposed to the development, but regarding the low amount of compensation, further decision should be taken and increased compensation should be given.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said that regarding the compensation of the land, the issue will be definitely discussed with District Collector.

In the meeting, Bio-Diversity Act and District Level Committee were discussed accordingly. It is necessary to incorporate the suggestions raised in the meeting under the Bio-Diversity Act in the revised EIA report.

The suggestions, objections and criticisms raised in the meeting will be included in the minutes of the meeting, similarly the written suggestions, objections received and revised environmental assessment report of the project will be submitted to Ministry of Environment, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi with the approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding it.

Participants were again to raise their suggestions, objections and criticisms in writing or orally by the Environmental Public Hearing Committee. There was no response from the participants.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the suggestions, objections raised during the meeting have been noted and it will be included in the Minutes of Meeting. It will be submitted alongwith written suggestions, objections and Revised EIA Report to



Ministry of Environment, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi with the approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding it.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all and on behalf of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared as meeting as concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to Chair.

(Nikhil More)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Solapur

(Prashant Gaikwad)

Representative
Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Pune

(Dadasaheb Kamble)

Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur,
District – Solapur