

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED BHIVPURI (1000 MW) OFF-STREAM OPEN LOOP PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT (PSP) BEING IMPLEMENTED AT MOUJE-KHAND VILLAGE, TALUKA-MAVAL, DISTRICT-PUNE, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED, MOUJE-KHAND VILLAGE, TALUKA-MAVAL, DISTRICT-PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed Bhivpuri (1000 MW) Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) being implemented at Mouje-Khand Village, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s The Tata Power Company Limited, Mouje -Khand Village, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 05th April, 2024 at Tata Camp, Mouje-Khand Village, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune, Maharashtra at 12.00 noon.

At the beginning of the meeting, Project Proponent welcomed everyone while giving all the information about the plan of the security in the meeting hall. He said that the villagers present here are our companions for hundred years. He informed about the safety of the meeting pavilion and informed that if any emergency situation occurs, everyone will be taken to a safe place by the volunteers and helpers. The safety place is on the side of the parking lot and the helpers, volunteers are also available there too. Firefighting system is available in the pavilion and fire brigade vehicle is outside the pavilion. As it is summer days, drinking water and soft drinks are available for heat stroke. There is a police team sitting next to the pavilion and medical facilities are available there. Ambulance and medical officers are available here in case of emergency.

Shri Vidyasagar Killedar, Sub Regional Officer, Pune-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Jyoti Kadam, Additional District Magistrate, Pune and Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Prashant Gaiwad, Representative, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Vikram Deshmukh, Tahsildar, Taluka – Maval, Dist- Pune; Shri. Suyog Bendre, Nayab Tahsildar, Collector Office, Pune; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels, Police Administration, Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson. 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 online application on 19-02-2024 from Project Proponent M/s. The Tata Power Company Limited, Mouje -Khand Village, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune, Maharashtra for their proposed project in respect of Bhivpuri (1000 MW) Off-Stream Open Loop

Pumped Storage Project (PSP) being implemented at Mouje-Khand Village, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune, Maharashtra. Joint Director, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Mumbai vide letter dated 23-02-2024 directed Sub Regional Officer,Pune-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,Pune . to complete the procedure for conducting Environment Public Hearing of the proposed project.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of proposed project falls under Category A schedule 1 (c) 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 unit.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report on 07/08/2023 to the, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered and given online approval (ToR) on 23-09-2023.

After sanction from District Collector, Pune to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 05th April, 2024 at 12.00 noon, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 126 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-240311- FTS- 0088 dated 11-03-2024 as under:-

- 1) District Magistrate-Pune **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,Pune-2 **Convener**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Pune-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune in the Local Newspaper in Daily Loksatta for Marathi and in National Newspaper Indian Express for English on 05 March, 2024. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed activity.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery 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, Pune;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Pune;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Pune;
- 5) Sub Divisional Officer-Maval-Mulshi Sub Divisional Pune, Talathi Training Center, Bavdhan, Tal – Mulshi, District – Pune;
- 6) Sub Divisional Officer-Khed, Taluka-Khed, District-Pune;
- 7) Tahsildar-Maval, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune;
- 8) Tahsildar-Khed, Taluka-Khed, District-Pune;
- 9) **Gram Panchayat Office – Taluka – Maval -**
Vadeshwar, Nagathali, Dahuli, Khand, Savala, Inglun, Malegaon BK, Shirdhe;
- 10) **Gram Panchayat Office – Taluka – Khed-**
Adhe, Ambhu, Vanjul Vihire, Vandre, Torne Khurd,
- 11) Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 12) Member Secretary, M.P.C. Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai – 22;
- 13) Regional Office Pune & Sub Regional Office Pune-II, MPC Board, Jog Centre, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Wakdewadi, Pune-Mumbai Road, Pune- 411 003;
- 14) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai;

Convener informed that 04 suggestion / objection has been received by Sub Regional Officer, Pune -2, MPCB, Pune regarding the proposed project

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 at MoEF takes further decision regarding the same. He requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

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

Project Proponent stated that the total expenditure for the said project is estimated at Rs. 4,743.59 crores and capital expenditure for environmental management is estimated at Rs. 23.76 crores and recurrent expenditure at Rs. 44.36 crores for 7 years. The project will require around 1,000 to 1,500 temporary personnel during the construction phase and all the manpower will be appointed from local villages.

Project Proponent said that the proposed project is the 1,000 MW Bhivpuri Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) Hydroelectric Project planned at Mauje Bhivpuri Camp in Karjat Taluka of Raigad District. In the said project, the existing Thokarwadi Dam reservoir at Mauje Wadeshwar, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune in Indrayani river basin will be used as Upper Reservoir and Mauje-Bhivapuri camp in Karjat Taluka of Raigad District will be constructed for the new Lower Reservoir. The stone dam will be built.

He said that Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) means there is an upstream/downstream reservoir. Water Conveying System, Power House, Generator. The rate of solar energy and wind energy in the country is increasing not only in India, but all over the world. Solar power is only available for a certain part of the day, while wind power is seasonal and unreliable. So, if the solar energy is stored after it is generated, it can be used 24 hours a day whenever we need.

So there is a system available to use when eco-friendly and cheap storage is required, that is Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) Hydroelectric power plant. When solar energy is available, it is used for pumps and motors. Water from the lower reservoir is pumped into the upper reservoir, about 540 meters high at existing Tokarwadi Dam.

When solar power is not available and there is a demand for electricity, it uses the water from the upper reservoir to power the same machine as a turbine and generator, generating electricity and feeding it to the grid and storing water in the lower reservoir. It is part of the Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) Hydroelectric Project. Similar PSP hydropower project has been functioning at Bhira for the last 25 years. As shown in the map, 80% of the project is in Raigad district, 20% in Pune district.

During the construction phase of the project, the waste water generated from the labor colony and various construction activities will be treated. Adsorption pits, sewage treatment will be done. During the project construction phase, vehicular traffic, blasting may cause noise pollution. Various measures will be taken in this regard.

The E-Waste generated in the project will be disposed of as per the guidelines passed by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. There will be no harm to the environment here.

Project Proponent said that various components will be spent under the Environmental Management Plan. Tata Power has been operating here for more than a hundred years. So the Tata Group and the local people are living here as a family. Various social and educational activities are conducted in the area.

The Club Energy initiative teaches school children how to save energy. Many government schemes do not reach the needy people of the society. So the activities

that are implemented to create public awareness about this, for example - Sukanya Samrudhi Yojana is a special scheme of the central government for girls, many people do not know about it, we work to bring such schemes to the people. Anokha Dhaaga is an initiative being implemented. There the local women have done the best work during Covid. They have produced lakhs of masks and distributed them nationwide. One of the biggest problems faced by schools in rural areas is the supply of electricity. Many a times there is load shedding, even in school, since teaching is done on computers, nothing can run without the availability of electricity. So we are working on how to improve the quality of school children by providing e-learning kits.

Project Benefits - 1000-1500 temporary people with various skills will be employed during the construction phase of the project. The promoters of the project are trying to provide employment to as many local people as possible from Mauje-Khand village of Pune district and Bhivpuri village of Raigad district. This project will raise the social and economic standard of living here. It is the cheapest, cleanest energy generating project. Not only Maharashtra, but the country also needs such projects. The project will be the largest of its kind in the country once operational. We all will be proud of it. All of us will be involved in this project.

Project promoters further informed that there was a demand of the local people that the health facilities were not available in adequate quantity. Government Health Sub Center was approved by Govt. But the land was not available for it. So the promoters of the project namely Tata Power have allotted 20 (twenty) Gunthas of land at Vadeshwar to the Government Health Sub-Centre and soon the contract will be signed there and after the completion of the construction all will get health facilities.

After the presentation, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, told the audience that the project proponent have given detailed information about the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) planned for pollution control during the construction phase of the project and after its completion. He appealed to the participants to raise environmental suggestions, views and objections regarding the proposed project.

While informing, first name and place of residence/village should be mentioned while registering objection. All suggestions and objections will be recorded. Similarly, those who want to submit written statement should submit it. Project Proponent is informed to reply in writing and it will be submitted to the Government along with the minutes of the meeting. Hence, those who desires to submit written suggestions/objections, it can be submit in written form.

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 Sagar Vitthal Nagarkar, Residence – Khand gaon, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

It is good that the said project is going to be commissioned here. Presentation shows the proposed impact of the project on environment.

However, whatever the demands of the village are, they are being presented in written form on the letterhead. Consideration and further action is expected in this regard. Company Administration should think about it and discuss with the local people and find a solution.

In the presentation, it was informed that CSR activities are implemented here and the village get benefits from it. This is not acceptable to us. The benefits of CSR activities to local villages are much less than expected. It is expected to increase. 10% of CSR activities are implemented here out of CSR activities which are implemented at Bhivpuri at Raigad district. No CSR activities are implemented in Khand villlage. I am living here since my childhood. Seeds, pulses, study books were made available under the CSR activities, which I have seen since my childhood. My objection is that no CSR activities are being implemented in Khand villlage. In the presentation, it was mentioned that local students are trained through e-learning platform. But even with a company like Tata Power, Khand villlage has to bear load shedding. This is very sad matter. Along with Khand villlage, Savala villlage and nearby small bastis / localities face very bad situation during monsoon. Load shedding/Cut of power supply is always here. Here, there is no electricity supply for two months during summer. My childhood has been spent here.

When it comes to e-learning, even in the 21st century, we still don't have a network. So how does e-learning work here? Project Proponent has made available huge LED, LCD, Projectors to Grampanchayat office. It is used here at very less time. Our demands are submitted in writing to Project Proponent.

- Project Proponent informed in the Presentation that the said project will provide job opportunities here upto 70% to local people. We demand that ratio should be increased upto 90%. As local graduates, engineers have to go out for getting jobs, they will not require to go outside. Overall, needs of the local people should be fulfilled.
- Project Proponent while replying thanked and remarked that the suggestion made here that the local people and the company's local management sit together and co-ordinate is welcomed.
- Project does not have a license to supply electricity. Although, Bhivpuri power plant generates electricity, it cannot supply electricity as it does not have a license. We have been repeatedly requested to supply electricity, but we cannot do anything. The initiative of solar energy has been taken for the purpose of not wasting the time of the students of the school.
- Project Proponent will be happy to supply electricity to the local people if the local people's representatives try to do so at the government level and get permission. Also, local persons with required skills will be given maximum employment opportunities in the project. A positive decision will be taken for the rest of the demands sitting together.

**2) Shri Ankush Ambekar, Residence – Khand Nilashi Village, Taluka –
Maval, District – Pune :-**

Thanks to District Administration for giving local people an opportunity to express their grievances through this platform. There are Khand, Savala and 28-29 villages, the local people are happy that the project will provide employment opportunities to the youth of the village according to their skills.

Project Proponent acquired the land in 1880 and project was completed in 1922-23. Almost 144 years have been completed. 7,800 hectares (19,500 acres in total) of land has been made available by local people for the project. However, even after the last hundred years, the development of this area has not been done as it should be.

The local Gram Panchayat has passed resolutions for various social welfare schemes and handed it to Project Proponent many times. But Project Proponent have not given approval in this regard. There are no crematoriums. Some villages do not have space for a crematorium. Company Officer informed in the Presentation that company has given their own land for a health sub-center here, but villagers also have given 19,500 acres of land for the project.

There is no network here, so local students have to suffer a lot. Local children have to go to school, a distance of 35 km from here. Though the financial condition of the parents is weak, they send them to study. Also, one has to travel the same distance for a job. Due to the heavy traffic in the area, some local youth have lost their lives.

Local youths here are honest, they need business guidance, encouragement in local business. There are agriculture fields, but the company does not provide water for agriculture, which is the pain of the local farmers. Here 352.64 MCM reservoir capacity project is already in existence and already generating 75.0 MW power. Even then, Project Proponent is going to set up new project.

Even though the new project is approved by our local people, Project Proponent does not take a positive decision regarding the resolution of the local Gram Panchayat. Hence, positive decisions should be taken in co-ordination with the local people.

- Project Proponent thanked Shri. Ambekar for his support and co-operation in the project.
- Project Proponent said that objections have been raised that the company is not providing water to the agriculture fields. Ten years ago, the company signed an agreement with the Water Resources Department of the Government of Maharashtra and according to that agreement, the villages in the Thokarwadi catchment area can use 3.0 million cubic meters of water per year for agriculture/irrigation with the permission of the Water Resources Department. Even today, if any farmer requires water for irrigation, he should apply to the Water Resources Department. As far as I know, the Water Resources Department still has quota. The

full 3.0 million cubic meters of water has not been allocated. Permission will be obtained from the Water Resources Department. After getting that permission, Project Proponent will not do any obstruction.

- But the said water cannot be used for commercial use. For drinking irrigation purposes, Project Proponent has not made any hindrance.

Shri Ambekar said that we have taken the permissions. But the power supply here is very intermittent. So just getting the permission from Water Resources Department is of no use. We got license for community farming, got license for water, but water cannot be pumped due to frequent power outages/cut.

Whatever crops planted, got burnt. Hence, we demand that Tata Company should help the local farmers in collective farming. It is requested that the local youths here should be given employment contract in the project.

- Project Proponent said that we do not have the license to supply electricity as mentioned in the meeting.

At that time, Shri Ambekar remarked that we are not asking for power supply. Company should provide whatever help the local farmers need for Collective Farming. We don't want personal help.

- Project Proponent promised to take a positive decision in this regard.

3) Shri Rajesh Khandbhor, Residence – Vadeshwar Village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

I have 2-3 questions. What will be the total cost for the said project? Also, currently 80% of the project's CSR funds are used for Raigad district and 20% for Pune district. So how much will the CSR fund of the new project be used within the Gram Panchayat area of ours?

Also, in the new project, you are going to take water down and bring it back up. Now, the 75.0 MW project is operational, are you going to shut off the water? If not shut down, where are you going to get the extra water supply?

Almost twenty five years ago, a project came up in this village. The work was done by L&T company. People from Savala and Khand Gram Panchayat limits are present in the meeting here. People from other Gram Panchayat limits have also come. So here everyone thinks that their sons and daughters should get work in the project. There are nine village panchayats from Vadeshwar to Khand Savala and Kiwale to Savala.

Here, project officials assured that only youths from the local gram panchayat limits who have the required skills will be given employment contract in the project. If it doesn't happen, then on behalf of all that if even one person is outside, we will close your project.

Another thing that Presentation shows that a lot of improvements have been made in this area. You have stopped the ambulance service. There is no network here. Since the Gram Panchayat is in the tribal area, there is no money to pay the salaries of the Gram Panchayat employees. Now the work of Jal

Jeevan Yojana is going on. But when the light goes out, people don't even get drinking water.

Gram Panchayat has no money to pay the electricity bills. First of all, there are nine gram panchayats, if the company provides pumps of solar power, then the gram panchayats will not have to pay the light bill. So, there will be no financial burden on Gram Panchayat.

Now about education. Thank you for the act that the company distributes Navneet books to class 10th students. "Eka Dhaaga" initiative in Vadeshwar village has given employment to some women, thanks for that. But Project Administration is expected to take local people into confidence while maintaining the social activities from time to time.

You have not spent the CSR funds in the local area. Project Administration says that oxygen was supplied throughout the country during the Corona period. But when it was needed in this area, oxygen was not supplied. Company has deposited twenty five lakh rupees as water royalty, which has not been distributed to our Gram Panchayat. If the company does not pay water royalty, then the royalty should be handed over to the Tehsildar. We will distribute those gram panchayats from the local people's representatives. If you are going to do this, then only the project will be supported. If not, then project will not be supported by local people. These objections should be answered first, then others points will be raised.

- Project Proponent while replying, informed that the total cost of the project is approximately Rs 4,700 crore. This is the cost of the entire project. Out of this, a provision of around eight crores is reserved for CSR activities. Out of which four crores can be for Bhivpuri, Raigad district and four crores for Maval, Pune district. It will be spent as per requirement.
- Project Proponent said that a very good suggestion has been made to solarize Gram Panchayat pumps. Further decision will be taken after discussing this with the senior level management of the project. If our communication and co-ordination is lacking at the local level, it will definitely be enhanced.
- Project Proponent further informed that even though the road from Kanhe Phata to the company is owned by Tata Power, it has been handed over to Govt. of Maharashtra. Now a new bridge is being built there. However, in future, company administration will definitely co-operate and co-ordinate with the local people, District Administration and Government to implement such good projects.
- Project Proponent further said that suggestions were made regarding youth training in the meeting. While some local students were sponsored by Tata Power in some trades at ITI Lonavla and they have completed their training successfully. Apart from this, Tata Power has its own Skill Development Institute with branches at various locations. Through them, local youths will be trained and made employable. Policy, planning and implementation will be done only after dialogue with local people.

Shri Khandbhor here suggested that the meeting should be held here instead of Lonavla as discussed in the meeting. Local people should be taken into confidence. CSR funds should be allocated as per their suggestions. Some farmers own lands. But they doesn't have 7/12. So, they will not get water license from Water Resources Department. Only 10% of the farmers in the area have water licenses. Also, there are local farmers who do not have land, it is owned by the company. However, they should be allowed farming and should not be hindered.

Shri Sandbhor suggested to clarify CSR issues. Also, water royalty has not been answered. It should be given. Some policy can be formulated regarding training. A good project should be commissioned here. All the local people wish that their sons and daughters should get job opportunities in the project. Local people should be trusted.

Shri Khandbhor informed that at downside area of the project site, some persons/imposters are extorting money from poor, common people, needy families by promising job opportunities in Tata Power. Cases have already been registered against the concerned persons and are Company Management going to register a criminal case against the said persons/imposters? Because this is spoiling the name of Tata Group. In this regard, Company Management must take an immediate decision against such misconduct. Also the remaining points should be answered.

- Project Proponent informed that it has come to the notice of Company Administration that some person/persons are extorting money from the needy people by promising jobs, contracts to local people in Tata Power. However, all the local people are requested not to fall victim to anyone's fallacies. Company never hires people with money. The said matter will be immediately reported to senior management of the company and the senior management of the company will take an immediate action regarding it.
- Project Proponent said questions were raised about water royalties. Whereas, royalty does not apply to Tata Power. Because water is used for power generation and the used water is released back. The use of water in the project is non-consumptive use. Hence, water royalty is not applicable to the project. Therefore, there is no question of giving water royalty to Gram Panchayat, District Administration and Government of Maharashtra. Project Proponent informed that Company pays Gram Panchayat tax regularly.
- Project Proponent said that a joint meeting regarding the expenditure of CSR funds would be held soon and a positive decision would be taken keeping in mind the needs of the local people.

4) Shri Shobhinath Pandurang Bhoir, Residence – Savala gaon, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

A new project is coming up in the limits of our gram panchayat. For this purpose, this environmental public hearing has been organized. We have been

fighting against Tata for many years. When company management desires to commission any new project, false promises are made.

Our farmers are innocent, they are Project Affected Persons i.e. PAPs - due to construction of dam. Our forefathers gave lands to this Tata or State Government. It cannot be said what was decided in the agreement at that time. But a common worker like me got a platform to speak, so I am speaking.

How did you acquire the lands from our ancestors? Was the land acquired through the government or directly from the concerned person? All the information and proof of this should be made available to the Gram Panchayat Office in the concerned area. The information regarding the land agreement with the project promoters, government or other sources should be made available in the concerned gram panchayat office

The next point is that the road distance between Kanha Phata and Savala village is forty kilometers. When there is big Tata company here, our village does not have a multi-speciality hospital, no education facilities. There is no good facility for coming and going. There is no village development.

Hence, I demand that the road from Bhivpuri-Karjat to Tata Road should be developed. Our ancestors used to go by walk, even we also used to go by walk, as Karjat Taluka is near to us. While going by railway, we have to go to Lonavala. But by walk, we can reach in one hour. Previously, company officials used to give lift to local people, needy person, dam affected persons. But it is stopped due to some other issues. Now the lift used by the company for their own purposes and local people are not allowed to use it.

However, I demand that if the company develops the Tata road to Bhivpuri road, the local people will get benefit in their direct and indirect business.

Next point is availability of electricity. Company Management says that the land of local people was acquired through Government, so electricity cannot be provided to the dam victims. Then it is demanded that the company should provide us electricity through the government. There is no electricity here for months. If Government and Tata are connected, then why electricity is not provided to the dam victims and local people here?

Hence, we demand that the company should provide free electricity to our dam affected and local people for their domestic and agricultural use.

It is further pointed out that whenever local, dam affected persons go to Tata premises for any need, they are humiliated and slavish treatment is given by the security guards of the company. Necessary action should be taken immediately.

Also, if a local person needs help in some emergency, it takes time to go to Kanhe Phata. Considering the emergency situation, permission should be given to take the concerned person, old, sick person through Tata lift.

The next issue is of workers. Presentation states that the project will provide employment to local people. The youths of the dam-affected/project-affected Khand, Savala village and the adjoining Gram Panchayat should be given job opportunities in the project. Management should give job opportunities to the local people in the project without any pressure from outside sources.

Also, we are going to oppose the project until we receive a written guarantee to fulfill the demands made by the locals in the meeting.

It is further suggested that some farmers have become landless due to acquisition of their land from Kiwale to Savala and Vadeshwar to Khand villages for the project. Survey should be carried for them. If farmer is completely landless, it is essential to job opportunities to his son or daughter in the project.

Company has marked the water level of the pond.

But the water goes to the nearby fields of many farmers. If one acre of agriculture field is affected due to water of the dam, then the farmer should be compensated by giving one acre of land to an alternative place. This is our demand.

- Project Proponent replied that all the information requested by Shri Bhoir would be made available. Land acquisition in this area took place in 1894. All procedures were followed as per Law. Detailed information is available. That information is also available in the relevant department of the government and those who want it, can get it. We have made that information available from time to time and will make it available again.
- Project Proponent answered that Shri Bhoir demanded that dam victims, elders and farmers be allowed to use the hoist of the company. Earlier, company management used to allow. But it was closed due to security reasons. The area falls within the factory premises and in case of an accident or other untoward incident, it is likely to disturb the management unnecessarily.
- A suggestion has been given regarding power supply. Project Management has made a lot of efforts to obtain power distribution license. We have not yet been issued the electricity distribution license. But as per the directives of Maharashtra Power Commission in this sector, there is Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company. If we get permission from the Government, we will be happy and can provide electricity.
- It has been objected that local people and dam victims are being treated humiliatingly by the security guards. Tata Power apologizes if such an incident has occurred. Also, if it is done by the security guards, you should forgive them. Concerned persons will be informed in this regard.
- Next issue – Job Opportunities to Local People –
- In this regard, Project Management has said from time to time that maximum job opportunities are and will be given to the local people in the project.
- Next point – After the water level in the dam rises, the water goes outside the land acquired by the company, to the fields outside the company limits. This causes damage to the agriculture fields. Such matters should be brought to the notice of the Management. It will definitely be resolved.
- Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that this Environment Public Hearing meeting is called to raise any suggestion, views, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Here many local people have raised local

issues and Project Proponent answered it and promised to solve the issues amicably. Hence, it is appealed all the participants to raise any environmental issues regarding the proposed project.

5) Shri Prakash Bhau Deshmukh, Ex-Sarpanch, Khand, Taluka -Maval, District – Pune :-

My question is that earlier people in our village used to go by Tata road – the road next to the pipeline. Eventually that road was closed by the company. It should be opened by the company for all. Because by this road all people go to Bhivpuri-Karjat in half an hour.

Second question – Forty years ago, Company had promised to provide lift for giving water to the farmers here for their agriculture fields. Now you are going to take the water back. Your dam is about to fill. If a farmer has some land left, if he is given water by elevator, he will become prosperous. He can make a living out of it.

The third question – Job opportunities should be given in the project to every person of the family in the entire area of Khand, Savala. Project will be completed in 4-5 years, hence the farmers will have to leave this place for their bread and butter. Hence, they should be involved in the project for their livelihood.

- Project Proponent replied that the question has been answered. Project Proponent had to keep the pipe route closed for safety reasons as it falls within the factory premises. If there is an accident or any untoward incident, the responsibility lies with the company.

At that time, Shri Bhoir and others collectively demanded that as Company Management blocked the road, they should prepare an alternative road for us. We don't want anything else. They made a joint demand that Khand Sawla road is narrow and measures should be taken in this regard.

6) Shri Rajesh Khandbhor, Residence – Vadeshwar Village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune

He suggested that Joint meeting of all Gram Pannchayat should be called at Thokarwadi or at Vadeshwar by the company for the resolving the issues of road. There should be a solution regarding the Tata road. He further asked how many meters of blasting will be carried? There is a 35 meter tunnel. Is blasting going to have any ill effect on the houses and people there? Also, the dust that will fly during blasting and construction, how long will it fly after blasting. How many times a day blasting will be carried? Whether from sunrise to sunset or how? Here are pollution control board officials, should we say whether blasting is going to cause any harm to the environment? This should be explained.

7) Here Shri Ankush Ambekar, Residence – Khand Nilashi Village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

Asked the question asked here is that after blasting, the material that comes out, how will it be transported? Because the road in Khand is narrow. The roads leading

from Khand, Savli are very narrow. So what are the measures proposed by the Project Proponent regarding traffic there?

- Project Proponent while replying first about the blasting said that most of the blasting here will be done underground only. The tunnel in the project is of two kilometer long, it is 35 meters below the ground. Maximum blasting will be done underground. So there is no question of dust flying due to blasting. Also controlled blasting will be done as mentioned in the presentation. The reason for this is noise pollution, vibrations which should not harm the surrounding houses. Underground controlled blasting will be done within the prescribed limits. Therefore, there will be no harm to the surrounding houses.
- Project Proponent further said that since the road is narrow, the planning for carrying heavy traffic was questioned. He said that the project promoters have also conducted a survey regarding the narrow road. Company has carried out a survey and received the draft report regarding the road work to be carried out and the debris that will be removed, the movement of heavy vehicles on the narrow road. The construction of the project will be started only after the measures mentioned by them are implemented. We intend not to disturb the local vehicles due to the heavy vehicles coming for the project.

8) Shri Rajesh Khandbhor, Residence – Vadeshwar Village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune asked Project Proponent –

As promised in the meeting, it should be informed about calling of meeting of all gram panchayats, i.e. resolutions of all gram panchayats and their questions will be submitted to the Company Administration. You have to give one hour to each Gram Panchayat, which can complete all subjects. Give Explanation about this.

- Project Proponent answered that Bhivpuri has an environmental public hearing on April 12, 2024. After that, a meeting will be called here in Khand village itself. A whole day meeting will be held and amicable solutions will be find out.

9) Shri Sagar Vitthal Nagarkar, Residence – Khand gaon, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

He further asked the question that trees are going to be cut as a dam is going to be built at Bhivpuri. How much trees will be cut? How will the scale be when planting trees ie 1:5, 1:10,

Next demand - Controlled blasting will be done in the project. So the debris that comes out should not be deposited in our area.

Next question – After the implementation of the project, there will be increase in manpower in the area. Due to this, there will be an increase in the household waste generated. What solutions will be planned for it?

- Project Proponent answered that the existing trees at the project site will have to be cut down. So all the directives as passed by the forest

department will be followed. Also, if compensatory afforestation is done due to felling of trees, all guidelines of the forest department regarding land availability, cost of tree planting and maintenance will be followed. A lot of trees have been planted for green belt development in the existing project. As part of the new project, all the guidelines of the forest department will be followed and the information will be made available.

- Project Proponent said there are rules regarding waste storage and disposal, so as not to cause water pollution. All those rules, guidelines are to be followed by the project proponent.
- The increase in manpower due to the project will increase the domestic waste in the area. There will be an increase in domestic sewage as well as other waste in the labour colony. In this regard, the directives as passed by the Government, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board will be strictly followed. Domestic waste water will be treated scientifically.

10) Shri Ganesh Lohe, Residence – Ambhu Village, Taluka – Khed, District – Pune :-

The villages of Adhe, Ambhu, Vanjul Vihere, Bandra, Torne Khurd in Khed taluka should be given detailed information about the benefits of this project.

- Project Proponent explained that the suggestion made by Mr. Khandbhor during the discussion in the meeting is accepted. Accordingly, a meeting of all project affected villages will be called. CSR funds will be spent as per the needs of the village. We can sit together and decide the next measures.

11) Shri Shobhinath Pandurang Bhoir, Residence – Savala gaon, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

The answer is not given regarding the use of Bhivpuri to Tata Road. It was demanded to be answered. Shri Bhoir opined that if the road is developed, we will not have any problems. Our land is acquired. The answer should be given whether Project Proponent will develop Bhivpuri to Tata road or not? It should be answered.

- Project Promoter replied that it is not possible to answer this immediately here.

At that time, Mr. Bhoir demanded that until a decision is taken regarding road construction, we request you not to start your project. Shri Bhoir said that our development is Karjat taluka Maval taluka. Our only demand is to construct Bhivpuri to Tata road. It may be one way, but it is most important to have a road.

12) Shri Balasaheb Ghadge, Residence – Malegaon Gram Panchayat :-

In this environmental public hearing, many local people expressed their joy and sorrow regarding the proposed project. A public hearing has been held for the proposed project, then why no public hearing for environment has been held for the construction of the windmills?

- Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee stated that as per the Notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi dated 14 September 2006, it is mandatory for certain projects to obtain environmental clearance before commissioning of the project. For this, it is mandatory to organize a public hearing on environment in advance. Windmill project is not included in the list.

He objected that our lands were acquired a hundred years ago. Our ancestors were illiterate at that time. Now our children here are graduates, ITIs. They should be given priority in the job opportunities in the project. Also, many locals here have building construction materials, tractors, JCBs. So instead of using construction materials from outsiders, tractors, JCBs, construction materials from local people should be used. Local people are not employed, hence he cannot repay the loan further. It is requested to the Government Administration that if local people, dam affected persons, farmers are going to Karjat within 15-20 minutes from here, then such projects should be taken up. Vadeshwar will have a hospital. Also, children here have to go to Pune for college. So it is necessary to have a college here. It is necessary to establish a college in this area on behalf of Tata.

He appealed to District Administration to look into this matter. We don't have electricity for several days, but fifteen hundred to two thousand bill is issued. Although the local children are educated and skilled, they should be given employment contract in the project.

- While replying to the questions raised, Project Proponent answered that many of these questions had already been answered, and the suggestions made would be positively considered.
- Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that many local questions have been asked and they have been recorded as Government. Tata company has also agreed to co-operate.

13) Shri Subhash Deshmukh, Gram Panchayat Member, Residence – Khand, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

Being a local here, I know the local issues very well. Welcome to the project. Employment contracts will be available to locals. People have no opposition to this project. The presentation shows that the project will comply with all environmental norms. Tata Group is a charitable group. They are always ready to help every time.

Also, Company should give one day to each Gram Panchayat, so that after passing the resolution in the Gram Sabha, they will submit the information about the social schemes to the company. The company should take further action for co-ordination.

- Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed that women are present here and they are appealed to raise environmental

issues. Even after that, if anyone desires to register suggestions, objections, it should be submitted in written form.

14) Ms. Madhavi Auriyya, Residence – Khand Village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :

I am asking questions about pollution. Due to this project, there will be increase in the traffic of heavy vehicles, while the roads here are narrow. Bikes, two wheelers are used here. A villager of Khand village met with a big accident. Because his scooter collided with heavy vehicles. If the Bhivpuri-Karjat to Tata road is constructed, it will reduce pollution. By reducing the distance, the consumption of petrol and diesel will decrease. Similarly, people going to Kanhe Phata will get road for transportation. This is my suggestion.

- Project Proponent said that we have conducted a survey regarding the narrow roads and heavy vehicle traffic due to the company and report is just received. We will implement the suggestions. Our company always takes care of everyone's safety.
- Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any environmental suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project. There was no response from the participants.

While concluding the meeting, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that many local issues were raised by the participants and the Project Proponent has promised to adopt a positive policy by giving proper answers to them. Similarly, some of the participants have properly registered environmental suggestions and objections.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that it is already informed that this meeting 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 are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting which will be prepared in Marathi and in English. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairperson, written suggestions and objections as received 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

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee thanked Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, Representative, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, Tahsildar, Maval Taluka, Dist-Pune; Nayab Tahsildar, Collector Office, Pune Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels, Police

Administration and Company Officials and local people / participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson. Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 04 written suggestions/objections as received.



(Vidyasagar Killedar)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Pune-2
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune



(Prashant Gaiwad)

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



(Jyoti Kadam)

Chairperson,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Pune
District – Pune