

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF WESTERN COALFIELD LIMITED AMALGAMATED GAURI-PAUNI EXPANSION OPEN CAST COAL MINE FOR INCREASE IN PRODUCTION CAPACITY FROM 6.75 MTPA TO 9.00 MTPA ALONG WITH INCREASE IN MINE LEASE AREA FROM 2386.94 HA. TO 3158.79 HA. LOCATED AT VILLAGE GAURI AND PAUNI, TAL. RAJURA, DIST. CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S WESTERN COAL FIELDS LIMITED, WCL BALLARPUR AREA, TALUKA-RAJURA, DISTRICT - CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

Date : 06/01/2026
Time : 11:00 AM
Place : Manoranjan Kendra, WCL, Sasti Colony, Vill. Dhoptala, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra

Preamble:-

Project Proponent M/s. Western Coal Fields Limited, WCL Ballarpur Area, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra has applied to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department (MoEF& CC) Govt. of India, (Gol), New Delhi for permission of carrying out the study in the radius of 10 k.m. of project and preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for obtaining Environmental Clearance for the Proposed expansion of Western Coalfield Limited, Amalgamated Gauri-Pauni Expansion Open Cast Coal Mine for increase in production capacity from 6.75 MTPA to 9.00 MTPA along with increase in mine lease area from 2386.94 Ha. to 3158.79 Ha. Located at Village Gauri and Pauni, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra

The proposed project has been approved by the MoEF& CC, Gol, New Delhi and Terms of Reference (ToR) was sanctioned on 06/09/2025. As per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, the environment study should be carried in the radius of 10 km from the project site before environmental public hearing and to include in the final environmental impact assessment report the environmental issues raised by the project affected people about the proposed project. As the proposed project falls under Category A-1 (a), it is mandatory to the Project Proponent to obtain prior Environment Clearance (EC) from MoEF& CC, Gol, New Delhi.

Project Proponent M/s Western Coal Fields Limited, WCL Ballarpur Area, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra, has applied to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 20/10/2025 for conducting Environment Public Hearing. District Collector, Chandrapur, Maharashtra State, in co-ordination with MPCB Chandrapur Office, approved to hold a public hearing on 06/01/2026.

As per EIA Notification, 2006, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Chandrapur in the 02 Local Newspapers 1) Navrastra in Marathi Language, 2) Lokmat in Marathi Language and in 02 National Newspapers daily 3) The Times of India, Nagpur Addition in English Language, 4) The Hitavada, Nagpur edition on 03/12/2025. An appeal is made to residents of the area, environmental organizations, residents to be displaced by the project or residents to be affected by the project in any other way to submit their views, comments,

suggestions or objections about the proposed project in writing or by email to the local MPCB Chandrapur office till the date of public hearing.

Also copy of draft EIA report and executive summary in Marathi and English were made available at various notified offices of Government for the observation, study and comments of the local people as under:-

- (1) Environment Department, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032
- (2) Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 2nd and 4th Floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-400022
- (3) Regional Office (C), MoEF&CC, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440001.
- (4) Regional Office/ Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
- (5) Collector Office, Chandrapur.
- (6) Zilla Parishad, Chandrapur.
- (7) District Industries Center, Chandrapur.
- (8) Sub-Divisional Office, Rajura, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (9) Municipal Council, Rajura, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (10) Tahsil Office, Rajura, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (11) Panchayat Samiti Office, Rajura, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (12) Grampanchayat Office Sasti, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (13) Grampanchayat Office Sakhri, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (14) Grampanchayat Office Nimani, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (15) Grampanchayat Office Pauni, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (16) Grampanchayat Office Gauri, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (17) Grampanchayat Office Charli, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (18) Grampanchayat Office Manoli, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (19) Grampanchayat Office Goyegaon, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (20) Grampanchayat Office Chincholi khurd, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (21) Grampanchayat Office Waroda, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (22) Grampanchayat Office Kadholi, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur
- (23) Grampanchayat Office Kalmana, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (24) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board: www.mpcb.gov.in

It is also informed to the notified government departments (Sr.no.05 to 23 as above) about giving wide publicity at their level regarding Environmental Public Hearing.

The public hearing was thus widely publicized following the due procedure as per the Notification, so that it would be convenient for the project affected or concerned persons to register their views, comments, suggestions or objections with the concerned department. As per the directives, the public consultation is arranged on the project site.

As per the EIA Notification as issued by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi dated 14th September, 2006, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has

constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide no.E-88/2025 under letter no.BO/JD(WPC) PH/B-251223-FTS-0184, dated 23/12/2025 as under :-

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

This office is in receipt of notices, complaints, statements, objections regarding the above project and the persons / concerned institutions have been informed to attend the public hearing and submit their views, opinion, suggestions or objections if any complaints, statements, objections.

The attendance sheets of the participants during the public hearing as well as the Order of the Environment Public Hearing Committee constituted by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board are attached herewith as **Annexure-I & II**.

Minutes of the Environment Public Hearing:-

At the beginning of the meeting, Shri Umashankar Bhadule, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri D.S. Kumbhar, Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Tanaji Yadav, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Project officials, Journalists, NGOs working in the field of environment and local people who were present in large number and informed all the procedure of the public hearing. He appealed to all the participants to raise views, doubts, ideas, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. He said that the public hearing is organized only for the local people and project affected persons, so that the environmental issues and doubts would be resolved.

Convener of the meeting further informed that this meeting is arranged to know the feelings, suggestions or objections of the local people for the proposed project in environmental angle only and this Committee has no right to sanction, reject or recommend the proposed project. The suggestions or objections received during the meeting will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting in Marathi and in English and it will be submitted alongwith Final EIA report, the written suggestions/objections with the approval of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee through MPCB Head Office to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decisions accordingly.



Convener of the meeting further informed that as per the provisions of the Notification, the meeting is being photographed and video is being shot and after the presentation, the participants can raise their questions, suggestions, thoughts and objections. The Project Environmental Consultant or Project Proponent will answer the same. While asking questions, first inform your full name and residence village.

With the permission of the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Convener asked the Environment Consultant to give the presentation of the Environment Management Plan of the proposed project.

Project Consultant informed regarding expansion of the project and Environment Management Plan in local language Marathi. Following points were explained in the meeting:-

Detailed Information of the Project -

- Project Area, Latitude-Longitude, Map, Submerged Area, Beneficiary Area, Forest Area, Project; Features, Project Significance, Consequences, Land Use, Earthquake Stability;
- Project objectives, social status, employment opportunities, development of farmers due to the project;
- Project analysis, summary, findings;
- Analysis of social and economic status
- Information about air, water, land, sound, project affected areas etc.
- Impact and management of air, water, displacement, biodiversity due to planned project
- Information on environmental management after project implementation
- Information on other environmental management

The Convener appealed to the participants to raise their environmental suggestions or objections about the proposed project. While raising questions, inform the full name, village. He also informed Project Environment Consultant and Project Proponent to give appropriate answers.

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

1) Shri. Rajesh Unmule, Resident: Pauni Village, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	At Mauja Pouni, the demand for the rehabilitation provision made during the hearing has not been fulfilled. Measures should be taken to control diseases such as asthma caused by dust pollution. No measures have	The project proponent stated that all blasting is carried out according to the blasting study. Taking the Gauri Pauni expansion mine as an example, the blasting is conducted according to the study by CSIR-CIMFR (Central

<p>been taken regarding the cracks that have developed in the houses due to blasting. It was stated that the people of the concerned village have not received employment, and suggestions were made to reconsider this matter. He has suggested that the remaining land adjacent to the village belongs to 15 Nos. farmers should be acquired, and that the village is experiencing pollution due to the mine. Due to deforestation and wild animals, an atmosphere of fear has been created in the village, and it was suggested that a barbed wire fence should be erected in that area as a remedial measure.</p>	<p>Institute of Mining and Fuel Research). Furthermore, vibration testing is conducted whenever blasting is done. Vibration testing was conducted at the crematorium adjacent to Sakri village on December 15, 2025, December 18, 2025, December 23, 2025, and January 3, 2026. It was found that the average vibration was 1.50 mm/sec, while the standard is 5.0 mm/sec. This shows that the vibration is very low.</p> <p>The project proponent further assured that if any damage due to blasting is found anywhere, they will take action. The above-mentioned reports indicate that no damage is being caused by the blasting. It is also shown that the crematorium is approximately 300 meters away, and Sakri village is 500 meters away, so the vibration will naturally decrease with increasing distance from the mine.</p> <p>Regarding health services, the project proponent stated that in the Ballarpur area, one hospital and two dispensaries are available to serve the villagers. Free medical consultation and free medicines are provided to the villagers. Medical consultation is not denied to any villagers. The Area Hospital is equipped with facilities such as X-ray machines, oxygen cylinders, spirometers, and fetal heart rate monitors. On average, 200 villagers receive free consultation daily.</p> <p>In addition, medical camps are conducted in the village under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. In this regard, approximately 1700 villagers benefited in the year 2023-24, and 1803 villagers benefited in 2025-26. In addition, if any emergency occurs, villagers come to the Area Hospital where they receive appropriate treatment and are then referred to the government district hospital.</p>
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	<p>Regarding air pollution, the project proponents stated that, as shown in the power-point presentation, they have implemented various initiatives for pollution control at the mine, such as installing 7 fog cannon machines and an automatic tire wash system, and sprinklers around the coal stockyard. In addition, water is being sprayed by mobile water tankers at the Gauri Deep railway siding where the coal is transported, and a wind barrier system has been installed to prevent dust dispersion.</p> <p>The project proponents stated that the transportation of coal, which is currently done by trucks, will be stopped and will be done via conveyor belts. The coal will be delivered directly into a silo system from the belt and reach its final destination via railway. Coal from the nearby Sasti mine will also be included in this silo system. The project proponents will also soon purchase 4 truck-mounted fog machines.</p> <p>Regarding the fear of animals, it was stated that when environmental clearance is granted, it is mandatory for the project proponents to undertake tree plantation. It was further stated that under the Forest Act, a fund of ₹6.00 crore has been allocated under the Wildlife Management plan. This fund will then be handed over to the Forest Department, which will implement awareness programs in the village for this purpose.</p> <p>Regarding the issue of unemployment that was raised, it was stated that jobs are provided only to those villagers whose land is acquired. In addition, contract-based jobs are also created. Before starting any project, a project report is prepared, and the amount of land to be acquired is determined based on the underground coal reserves. After this, sections 4, 7, 9, or</p>
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	<p>11 are invoked to acquire the land from the villagers. Regarding the acquisition of the remaining land, a question was raised by Rajesh Umale, who also submitted several written statements. The project proponents held meetings with higher officials regarding this matter, but the only conclusion reached was that there is no coal under that remaining land, therefore, that land was not acquired. Regarding the issue of rehabilitation, the project proponents gave an assurance that if the villagers can show any government land where they have not any objection for rehabilitation, then the WCL administration will make every effort to provide rehabilitation on that land.</p>
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2) Mr.Nandkishor wadhai, Sarpanch Kalmana, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	<p>The water level in the village is observed to be decreasing. Water supply should be provided to the villages that fall within a 10 km radius. Roads in the rural area should be constructed using the OB of mines. From the farmers perspective, heaps of soil have been created after the excavation, which is leading to increased movement of wild animals. Therefore, the mining area should be fenced with barbed-wire so that wild animals coming from the mining area do not enter the agricultural fields. Paver blocks should be provided. Schools should be digitized so that students can be empowered. The library should be digitized. Pollution should be controlled.</p>	<p>Regarding the issue of decreasing water levels, the project proponent stated that under the Amrit Sarovar scheme, ponds have been constructed in Dhupatala, Mathra, and Charlie villages. The project proponent is also planning to purify the mine water using pressure filters and supply it to the villages to alleviate the shortage of water for irrigation and drinking purposes. Regarding the use of overburden soil for road construction, it was stated that a plant has been set up at the Ballarpur open-cast mine to produce sand from overburden. If successful, this sand can be used for road construction. Regarding the installation of paver blocks, the project proponent assured that their written application would be considered.</p> <p>The project proponent stated that a digital library has been established in Dhupatala village. If written requests</p>

	are received from other villages, they will be discussed and considered in the presence of the villagers. Regarding the demand for solar-powered lights, the project proponent stated that lights were installed in Gauri, Mathra, and Dhupatala villages last year, and the matter will also be considered for Kalmana village for supply of LED lights.
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3) Mr. Baban Narayan Urkude, Gauri village, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	In the Ballarpur area, there is a village called Gowri, 95 percent of land of this village has been acquired. This village should be rehabilitated. Due to the diversion of the Nallah, 146 houses and land were submerged under water. A 1000-meter length protective wall should be constructed near the bus stand in Gowri village. The employment-related proposal should be processed as soon as possible. Jobs should be provided in exchange for the land as soon as possible.	Regarding the stream diversion project, the project proponents stated that any diversion will be carried out only after a study by the CDO, Nashik. The diversion will then be implemented only after approval from the state-level regulatory board. The chairman of this regulatory board is the Honorable Chief Minister. Therefore, any diversions that take place in the coming year will only be done after the approval of the regulatory board. A study will be conducted regarding the construction of a retaining wall along the diverted Nallah, and a decision will be made accordingly. Care will be taken to ensure that no village faces flood situations due to the diversion. Regarding the questions raised about employment in the Gauri Pauni open-cast mine, the project proponent clarified that so far, 230 files for employment have been received by the administration and all of them have been sent to the WCL headquarters. Of these, 129 jobs have been approved, and the remaining are under review. On the issue of the rehabilitation of Gauri village, it was stated that the resolution for the rehabilitation of Gauri village has been received and it has been presented to the higher administration of WCL. A positive outcome is expected soon,

	and Gauri village will be brought under the rehabilitation scheme shortly.
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4) Mr. Prashant Gharote, Secretary, Sangharsh Yuva Vikas Mandal, Sakhari, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Measures should be taken to prevent future damage to farmers due to flooding caused by the diversion of Nallah resulting from soil dumping. Villagers should receive treatment at the Area Hospital under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). Pollution is occurring in the acquired agricultural land due to coal transportation; therefore, bamboo should be planted along the roadside. The land that was left out during the acquisition of the fully rehabilitated proposed village should be acquired. The tender for the plantation work carried out by WCL (Western Coalfields Limited) should be given to the Maharashtra State Forest Department so that employment is generated. Unskilled laborers from the villages falling under the project-affected area are not getting employment; employment should be provided to such people. A suggestion has been made to implement water irrigation measures to store this water, which can then be used for providing clean drinking water and also for agriculture.	Regarding the stream diversion project, the project proponents stated that any diversion will be carried out according to the study conducted by CDO, Nashik. The diversion will only be implemented after approval from the state-level regulatory board. The chairman of this regulatory board is the Honorable Chief Minister. Therefore, any diversions that take place in the coming years will only be done after the regulatory board's approval. Regarding the water supply for irrigation, it was stated that under the Amrit Sarovar scheme, ponds have been constructed in Dhupatala, Mathara, and Charlie villages. The project proponents are also planning to purify the mine water through pressure filters and supply it to the villages, which will reduce the shortage of water for irrigation and drinking. Regarding awarding the tree plantation work to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Development Corporation, the project proponents stated that since it is a government company, it is mandatory to award the work to the L1 contractor. However, it is noteworthy that MPRVVN employs 80% of the laborers from the nearby villages. Regarding the training of youth of the village, the project proponents stated that training is provided to the youth under the PDPT/PGPT programs, on which approximately ₹450.00 lakhs have been spent in the last three years. Regarding the road access to the remaining land in Sasti village, the project proponents stated that the proposal for this has also reached the

	WCL headquarters. The NGO survey for the rehabilitation of Pauni village has been completed, and a proposal for the TILR survey has been submitted. Regarding the rehabilitation of Chicholi village, the project proponents appealed to the villagers not to oppose the NGO appointed for the survey, so that further correspondence can be carried out as soon as possible.
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5) Smt. Nikita Ramesh Zade, Sarpanch - Rampur, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Due to the blasting, cracks are appearing in the houses of Rampur village, therefore the intensity of the blasting should be reduced. Bhadangpur village has been rehabilitated, but the construction of drains and roads has not been done; it should be completed. A hall has been constructed under CSR, but the construction is of substandard quality.	The project proponent stated that all blasting is carried out according to the blasting study. Taking the Gauri Pauni open-cast mine as an example, the blasting is done according to the study conducted by CSIR-CIMFR (Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research). Furthermore, vibration testing is conducted whenever blasting occurs. We conducted vibration testing at the crematorium near Sakri village on December 15, 2025, December 18, 2025, December 23, 2025, and January 3, 2026. It was found that the average vibration was 1.50 mm/sec, while the standard is 5.0 mm/sec. This shows that the vibration is very low. Similarly, if there is such a problem in Rampur village, they should submit a written statement. The administration will then conduct vibration testing in the presence of the villagers, and if anything is found, the administration is ready to take appropriate action and provide assistance. Regarding the substandard quality work, the WCL administration assured that appropriate action will be taken immediately.

6) Shri. Ramkrishna Madhukar Urkude, Waroda village, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The work sanctioned under CSR should be completed as soon as possible. The CSR funds should be released. The village pond should be deepened. The cement roads in the village should be repaired. The CSR fund should be distributed equally. Measures should be taken to prevent the damage to agriculture caused by dust pollution. I have been following up on this matter for five years, but this work has not been done. This work should be completed as soon as possible.	Regarding the social activities in Waroda village, the project proponent stated that social activities will be increased. Initiatives such as deepening the pond in Sakhari village or constructing new ponds will be undertaken. Regarding the decrease in water levels, the project proponent stated that this year, equipment like piezometers, which help in measuring water levels 24 hours a day, will be installed in the mine. In addition, M/s Anacon is monitoring water levels three times a year, and these reports are available on the company's website. Anyone with doubts can verify this by visiting the company's office.

7) Mr. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Hyderabad:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Mr. Sunanda reddy conveyed his best wished to WCL, and appreciated WCL for saving the economy by proposing the expansion project and saving 3750 crore which would have otherwise gone for importing the coal and great credibility to WCL. All environmentalists say that coal mining creates pollution, but the WCL administration has done proper control of pollution through Tarpaulin covered trucks, watering on roads and controlled blasting techniques. On the other hand they are creating 3000 jobs which is very appreciable. He conveyed the importance of plantation and suggested instead of normal plants,	About tree plantation, the project proponent said that the tree plantations are medicinal, fruit bearing, flowering and ornamental trees, including neem, karanj, jamun, mango, cirrus, ber, etc. Along with this the plantation is maintained and protected by MPRVN for 4 years after plantation as per the contract. About health awareness, the project owner said that in the last year around 15-20 health camps have been conducted in the village, and next year efforts will be made to increase this number in a definite manner.

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	fruit bearing, medicinal plants must be given priority. Also, a coordination committee with sarpanch, GoI, WCL officials shall be instituted so that demand oriented CSR works can be achieved. Probability of skill development programmes for PAF shall be considered for their overall development. He also suggested that Health immunity assessment is the need of the day. Finally he requested the MoEF&CC for unconditional approval for the proposed expansion.	
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8) Mr. Mithun Katwale, Member Gram Panchayat Sakhari, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Measures should be taken to address the problems caused in the village due to the intensity of the blasting.	The project proponent stated that all blasting is carried out according to the blasting study. Taking the Gauri Pauni expansion mine as an example, the blasting is done according to the study conducted by CSIR-CIMFR (Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research). Whenever blasting occurs, vibration testing is conducted. We conducted vibration testing near the crematorium in Sakri village on December 15, 2025, December 18, 2025, December 23, 2025, and January 3, 2026. It was found that the average vibration was 1.50 mm/sec, while the standard is 5.0 mm/sec. This shows that the vibration is very low. Similarly, if there is such a problem in Sakri village, they should submit a written statement. The administration will then conduct vibration testing in the presence of the villagers, and if any issues are found, the administration is ready to take appropriate action and provide assistance.

9) Mr. Rakesh Shankar Hingne, Kadholi village, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Pollution caused by coal mines and the resulting growth of thorny bushes are leading to an increase in the wild animal population, and therefore, measures should be taken to address this issue. A railway line is planned to pass through the villages of Gowari, Kadholi, Nandgaon, and Manoli under the Gowari-Powani sub-area. The land for this project is being acquired directly by the railway department instead of through WCL (Western Coalfields Limited). However, the villagers demand that the land be acquired by WCL first and then transferred to the railway department, so that the landowners can receive employment along with compensation for their land.	Regarding the planting of Prosopis trees, the project proponent clarified that MPRVVN is not planting the Prosopis trees, and they have grown naturally. As a solution, the project proponent has planned to cut-down Prosopis trees and something useful be made from them, and this will be implemented soon. The land being acquired by the railways is for expanding railway transport and not for increasing coal production; therefore, the land cannot be acquired by the WCL (Western Coalfields Limited) administration.

10) Shri. Baba Kawale, Member, Gram Panchayat - Pauni, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The water in the drain is black which the animals do not drink and also the dust should be controlled. Action should be taken as soon as the village is going to be resettled. We do this acquisition only for the benefit of people and not for loss. The government works for the people. According to the law, if the people are benefiting, then the government should do it. If the next step is decided considering this, it will benefit the people and also the country.	The NGO survey for the rehabilitation of Pauni village has been completed and a proposal has been made for further survey. The project owners assured that the rehabilitation work of Pauni village would also be completed at the earliest. The project owners said that before starting any project one thing is kept in mind is to minimize the impact of the project on the land, that's why in this project also we will find that the height of the external dump is being increased from 60 meters to 90 meters, keeping in mind that it should have the least impact on the surrounding area. However, the Vikoli

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	administration will think about the rest of the land and how it can be included. The NGO survey for the rehabilitation of Pauni village has been completed and a proposal has been made for further survey. The project owners assured that the rehabilitation work of Pauni village would also be completed at the earliest.
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11) Shri. Sachin Kude Upsarpanch Sasti, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The biggest issue of Sasti village is water supply. He said that due to Sasti mine and Dhopatata mine, the water supply of Sasti village has been completely cut off. Even now water supply is still happening after 4 days. We got 2 days of water supply through Bait. In which 19 lakhs were spent but it was not useful. This problem is not only in Sasti village. Last year also the village got a water supply fund of Rs. But Sasti village needs 5 lakh liters of water every day but the water supply from the river is only 2.50 liters every 4 days. After the opening of Dhoptala open pit mine, the water supply of Sasti village has decreased and the water level has decreased. This open pit mining project takes place within a 7 km radius of the area. So how will WCL supply water? The tragedy of the employment that is generated is that only a handful of people are employed. Employment opportunities are being provided to the people of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, except for the villages that are suffering the most. Sasti village is only 500 meters away from Dhopatata mine, yet employment issues, water issues, and environmental issues are to be met. Thank you for the TV plant in the village and the pipes. There should also be equal distribution in Bait which gives more benefits. An example of which is that those villages	The project proponents stated that many attempts had been made in the past which failed, but efforts to provide water supply will continue, and steps will be taken to ensure that water supply reaches Sasti village as soon as possible under the Amrit Sarovar scheme. If what has been said about MPRVVN is true, then action will definitely be taken, and they will be given a strict warning to ensure that employment opportunities go to the nearby villagers. In-addition to this, the project proponents state that the Miyawaki plantation project has been handed over to the Maharashtra Forest Department. The project proponents assured that full efforts will be made to set up a digital library in Sasti village, similar to the one in Dhupatal village. Regarding power outages, steps will be taken immediately to resolve this issue with the help of MSEB. Regarding air pollution, the project proponents stated that they will soon purchase four truck-mounted fog machines, which will help in controlling air pollution. Steps will be taken to ensure that employment opportunities are provided to the nearby villagers, and this will be decided in consultation with the villagers. Currently, approximately 700 villagers have received indirect employment.

	<p>which are near cement industry are better than our village. The electricity supply to Sasti village through Damth is getting cut off due to an external pile of Dhoptala Mine, the administration should dispose of it. Under the Amrit Sarovar project, the water from Dhoptala mine which is currently being used for outdoor use in Sasti village, should be purified and supplied to Sasti village for irrigation and drinking purposes. In the work done in Gauri sub-region through Dutch, tree plantation was done entirely by Dutch labour. Locals should get employment there. Through CSR representation for digital library has been given from 2023 but so far the work has not been done in the village, still our representation is that digital library work should be done in Sasti village as soon as possible.</p>	
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12) Shri. Purushhottam Gade, Sasti, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	<p>I am opposing this project. WCL's only strategy is to lie. It is false to say that blasting has been taking place in the Sasti mine in the last 15 days. Deliberate low impact blasting is done only during testing. After the blasting, there was sulfur in the air for an hour, WCL said in the previous public hearing that a committee will be formed to report and take action on what happened. Another big problem is water, the water level has gone down and it has become polluted. Even after the last hearing, water was supplied from the plant as a remedial measure and later shut down. A vibration testing machine should be kept by the administration in the village itself so that the villagers can get daily temperature. After that, an air monitoring machine should be installed in the village and its display</p>	<p>Regarding the installation of CAAQMS (Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations), the project proponents stated that four CAAQMS will be installed in the Ballarpur area within the next 5-6 months, for which the tender has already been issued. One of these CAAQMS will be installed near Sasti village at the Dhupatala mine, and the others will be installed at the Gauri Pauni mine, the Ballarpur open-cast mine, and the Ballarpur underground mine. The project proponents also stated that many attempts had been made in the past regarding water supply, which proved unsuccessful, but efforts to provide water supply will continue. They assured that steps will be taken to ensure that water supply reaches Sasti village as soon as possible under the Amrit Sarovar scheme.</p>

	should be installed in the village so that the villagers will know the level of pollution.	
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13) Shri. Bhagwan Gharote, Gram Panchayat Chincholi, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	What the WCL administration has to say about Chincholi village not receiving any CSR funds in the last 5 years. This is not done by giving many statements.	The project proponents noted down the village's problems, and any proposals related to skill development and training that come forward will be fulfilled from next year's CSR funds.

14) Shri. Suchita Maulikar, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Sasti, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The latter has repeatedly corresponded after the last Dhuptala hearing but nothing has happened regarding the rehabilitation of Sudha Sasti village. It was also said in the previous village meeting that there will be a letter transaction, this copy will be sent for the preference of the place but nothing has happened. Even though the check survey is not done, WCL should give priority to the issue of rehabilitation. Although there is a lot of help from the WCL administration, the village faces serious health and pollution threats. Still WCL should prioritize the issue of rehabilitation. It is a request that every family in the village including Ramnagar, Krishnanagar, Zendavasti should get the benefit of rehabilitation. Our only request from the WCL administration is to maintain control over blasting and pollution before the meeting. Some of the	Regarding the Sasti rehabilitation, it was stated that a baseline survey of the village has been conducted by an NGO. Following this, the TILR survey has also been completed. The property cards have been prepared and sent to the PWD (Public Works Department). Now, a request for a survey will be made to the PWD, and after the funds are provided, the PWD survey will also be conducted as soon as possible. Full efforts are underway to complete this process quickly. Regarding the inclusion of Ramnagar, Krishnanagar, and Zhendwasti in the rehabilitation process, the WCL (Western Coalfields Limited) administration informed that the land is encroached upon and a decision regarding its rehabilitation will have to be taken after forming a committee with the Honorable District Collector.

	agricultural lands in the area of Dhoptala mine have not yet been given this road, but WCL should make a road for the agricultural lands.	
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15) Shri. Sachin Maulikar, Sasti, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The WCL administration showing 700 people and giving employment to only people from our village will not work. As far as rehabilitation is concerned, it is WCL's policy that only property card proponents will get rehabilitation compensation. Not so, but everyone living in the village should benefit from it. The WCL administration is helping from time to time to solve the problem of water supply but the contractor who is doing the work is doing very poor quality work. In the water supply work done from Ramnagar, it should be noted that the pipe keeps bursting. Our only request from the wcl administration is to keep control of blasting and pollution before the meeting.	Regarding the Sasti rehabilitation, it was stated that a baseline survey of the village has been conducted by an NGO. Following this, the TILR survey has also been completed. The property cards have been prepared and sent to the PWD (Public Works Department). Now, a request for a survey will be made to the PWD, and after the funds are provided, the PWD survey will also be conducted as soon as possible. Full efforts are underway to complete this process quickly. Regarding the inclusion of Ramnagar, Krishnanagar, and Zhendwasti in the rehabilitation process, the WCL (Western Coalfields Limited) administration informed that the land is encroached upon and a decision regarding its rehabilitation will have to be taken after forming a committee with the Honorable District Collector.

16) Shri. Vijay Milmile, Dy. Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Chincholi, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The shed construction work was completed in the year 2019-20. What is the WCL administration's response regarding the fact that no CSR funds have been received by Chincholi village in the last 5 years? Even after visiting the office 50 times, this matter	The project proponents noted down the village's problems, and any proposals related to skill development and training that come forward will be fulfilled from next year's CSR funds.



has not been addressed. The CSR funds should be distributed equally.
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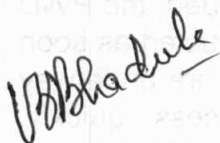
There was no participant in online mode. The audio & video recording of the Public Hearing was done throughout the Environmental Public Hearing.

The Convener of the Public Hearing briefed the people present if there are any other questions/issues, the same may be asked. However, nobody came with any questions. He announced that a copy of the proceedings and CD of the public hearing will be made available in due course of time in the MPCB office at Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.

The Chairman of the Committee while concluding the proceedings, summarized various points raised and declared that public hearing is ended, and concluded the public hearing with vote of thanks.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed 05 suggestions/objections received by the office.



(Umashankar Bhadule)

Convener, Environment
Public Hearing Committee &
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Chandrapur



(Tanaji Yadav)

Member, Environment Public
Hearing Committee &
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Chandrapur



(D.S. Kumbhar)

Chairman, Environment
Public Hearing Committee &
Additional District
Magistrate, Chandrapur