

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPOSED NIVAKANE (INTEGRATED) PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT (2700 MW) IN THE AREA OF 361.82 HECTARE AT VILLAGE-MARATHWADI, BHARSAKHALE, NIVAKANE AND MHARVAND, TALUKA-PATAN, DISTRICT-SATARA, MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S ADANI GREEN ENERGY LIMITED (AGEL), ADANI CORPORATE HOUSE, NEAR VAISHNODEVI CIRCLE, SG HIGHWAY, AHMEDABAD – 382 421, GUJARAT STATE-

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of establishment of proposed **Nivakane (Integrated) Pumped Storage Project (2700 MW)** in the area of 361.82 hectare at village-marathwadi, bharsakhale, nivakane and mharvand, taluka-patan, district-satara, maharashtra proposed by **project proponent M/s Adani green energy limited (agel), adani corporate house, near vaishnodevi circle, sg highway, Ahmedabad – 382 421, Gujarat state** was conducted on Wednesday, the 18th February, 2026 at 11.00 AM at Jawratwadi, Gra.Bharsakhale, Nivakane-Marathwadi Road, Taluka-Patan, District- Satara.

Shri Amol A. Satpute, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on behalf of District Collector Office, Satara and Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune welcomed Shri Nagesh Patil, Additional District Magistrate, Satara and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Shri Babasaheb Kukade, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels, Police Administration, Officials of the Project Proponent and local people/participants who were present and started the proceedings with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee.

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.

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.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi approved ToR on 07th August, 2023 to Koyna-Nivakane (Closed Loop) Pumped Hydro-electric Project for 2,450.0 MW capacity. But name of the project is changed from "Koyna-Nivakane PSP" to Nivakane (Integrated) Pumped Storage Project for which a revised 'Scoping Clearance' of 2,700 MW installed capacity has been approved on August 4, 2025.

Convener further informed that the proposed activity falls under Category "A" 1 (C) – "River Valley/Irrigation Projects, River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects, as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendment dated 22nd April, 2022 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India. Therefore, the project needs to obtain "Environmental Clearance" from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India and for this, it is mandatory to hold a public hearing on the environment in advance.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application on 28/07/2023 along with pre-feasibility report to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered and given online approval on 07/08/2023 for Koyna-Nivakane Pumped Storage Project- 2450 MW capacity. Thereafter, the name of the project was changed from Koyna-Nivakane PSP to Nivakane (Integrated) PSP. Accordingly, the project promoters submitted an online application for obtaining a revised TOR on 25/05/2023. And it was approved on 04/08/2025 for a capacity of 2700 MW under the name Nivakane (Integrated) PSP.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has appointed an Environmental Consultant who has obtained NABET approval as per the directives of the Government of India and have carried out the environmental assessment through appointed Environmental Consultant. A detailed environmental survey within a 10.0 km radius of the project site was carried out from December 2024 to August 2025, (9 Months) covering the winter, summer (pre-monsoon) and monsoon seasons.

A draft of the project site and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared and submitted to study the potential effect/impacts on the environment due to the establishment of the proposed expansion project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Project Proponent M/s Adani Green Energy Limited (Agel), Adani Corporate House, Near Vaishnodevi Circle, Sg Highway, Ahmedabad – 382 421, Gujarat State has submitted an application to Head, Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai on 21/11/2025 to conduct an Environment Public Hearing for their project Nivakane (Integrated) Pumped Storage Project (2,700 MW) in the area of 361.82 Hectare at Village-Marathwadi, Bharsakhale, Nivakane and Mharvand, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara, Maharashtra. Project Proponent has submitted the draft EIA report of the proposed project to Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai on 28/08/2025 and requested to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed project.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 05/12/2025 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Accordingly Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara initiated the process and vide letter dated 18/12/2025 requested Hon'ble District Collector, Satara to provide suitable date and time for taking Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

Hon'ble District Collector, Satara vide letter dated 13/01/2026 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 11.00 a.m. at project site Jawratwadi, Gra.Bharsakhale, Nivakane- Marathwadi Road, Taluka-Patan, District- Satara, Maharashtra.

After getting sanction from Hon'ble District Collector, Satara, Hon'ble Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 and as per Amended Notification S.O. 3067 (E) Dated 01-12-2009 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 91 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 260202 FTS- 0086, dated 02/02/2026 as under: -

1) District Magistrate-Satara
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate

Chairman

2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Pune,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune

Member

3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Satara

Convener

As per said Notification, 30 days advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara in the Local Newspaper in Daily Pudhari for Marathi and in National Newspaper Indian Express for English on 17th January, 2026. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Copies of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and in English for the public at various notified Government offices as under:-

- 1) Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Satara
- 2) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Satara
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Centre, Satara;
- 4) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 5) Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
- 6) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 3rd Floor, Jog Center, Old Mumbai-Pune Road, Wakadewadi, Pune – 411 003
- 7) Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, New Administrative Bldg., 2nd Floor, Behind S.T. Stand, Sadar Bazar, Satara – 415 001
- 8) Regional Office, West Central Zone, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Secretariat Building Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 9) Sub Divisional Officer, Sub Division Office-Patan, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara
- 10) Tahsil Office, Patan, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara;
- 11) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Patan, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara
- 12) Grampanchayat Offices – Nivkane, Bharsakhale, Mharathwadi, Arav, Chafoli, Pitewadi, Jalu, Nivde, Sayarghar, Kushi, Kusvade, Ramel, Jimanwadi, Bhokarwadi, Jalav, Kalambe, Marloshi, Waghawadi, Dhorogharshi, Mandure, Mharvand, Dafalwadi, Keral, Lugadewadi, Khivshi, Dhanvi, Dhulwadi, Panav,, Jungati, Mendhoshi, Divshi Khurd,

Ambavane, Chiteghar, Manashi, Sakhari, Gavdewadi, Kathi, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara.

- 13) Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board – Executive Summary of the Proposed Project is made available in Marathi and English

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that after publishing the public notice of public hearing on the relevant environmental issues in local and national newspapers, 41 suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project were received at the Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara till 5.00 pm yesterday.

Convener informed that an opportunity will be given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to direct the Project Proponent to start the presentation.

Prior to that, Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee requested Hon'ble Bharat Patankar Sir, who was present at the Environmental Public Hearing, to say a few words.

Shri Bharat Patankar Sir opined that the issue of environment is a big and serious one. This issue is much bigger than pollution. We can say that pollution can be caused by water, air, and dust.

However, the natural habitat of all living things in the environment, their co-existence, co-existence, which we call Healthy Existence, will not harm anyone – forests, animals, soil will not be harmed. Environment is a broad subject. Sahyadri has a different character, Sahyadri has been studied by Gadgil Committee. So, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board cannot be the Competent Authority here. However, even though you have come here, I object that you cannot be the Authority. We say that this public hearing cannot take place.

Further demand is that Resident Deputy District Collector and Magistrate have come here on behalf of the District Collector. But the National Rehabilitation Policy, 2007 is applicable to all these projects. As per it, this hearing will not be held. Because this is a public hearing on environmental issues. But if it is to be conducted, it is necessary that an officer holding the post of Additional District Collector be present as Chairman. My objection should be noted. But if this environmental public hearing continues, I will have to speak and we will talk about all the other issues. So will it be recorded?

This public hearing should be cancelled and re-organized and at that time, other relevant departments of the government should also be called for the next public hearing. However, my objections should be noted and other issues will be raised after the presentation.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, informed that as per Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi, it is mandatory for certain projects to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) before commencing the project. For this, it is mandatory to conduct an Environmental Public Hearing in advance, and the main purpose of this meeting is to understand the views / opinion of the local people about the proposed project and to make them aware of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the proposed project. As per EIA Notification, 2006, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is just Convener of the meeting. District Magistrate is Chairman of the Committee. With prior approval of the District Magistrate, the meeting is arranged.

Even though District Collector has appointed Deputy District Collector, he is recognized as an Additional District Magistrate in this meeting. This is the prerogative of the Hon'ble District Collector.

Here, Shri Patankar Sir objected that officials from other government departments were expected to be present at the meeting.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that it is mandatory to follow the directives issued under EIA Notification, 2006 of constitution of Environment Public Hearing Committee and procedure of conducting Environment Public Hearing.

While raising objections, Shri Bharat Patankar said that even if we raise other issues, it will be just noted, but will not take any further action.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee clarified that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, as per EIA Notification, 2006, has kept limited purpose of Environmental Public Hearing.

This Committee is constituted to note the suggestions, views or objections as raised by the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. He said that Convener of the Meeting has already informed while beginning of the meeting that this Committee does not any decision, neither reject the project, nor recommends the project. The minutes of the meeting alongwith Revised EIA and the written suggestions/objections as received will submitted to MoEF & CC, Gol, New Delhi. An Expert Committee there takes further decision.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee further reiterated that even after completion of this public hearing meeting, people can submit their written suggestions/objections. It will be sent to Government alongwith minutes of the meeting.

With permission of Hon'ble Chairman, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee instructed Project proponents Environment Consultant to explain Environment Management Plan of the proposed project. Accordingly, Environment Consultant informed all participants that after Presentation, participants to raise any suggestions, views or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. While raising, please inform your name and name of village. It will noted in the minutes of the meeting.

At this time, some participants appealed to register suggestions/objections according to each slide during the presentation. Here, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that according to the public hearing method, all the presentations will be shown first. Those who wish to make suggestions on a slide should note the slide number. That slide will be shown again. This public hearing on environmental issues will not end until the last objection is raised.

Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that after all the presentations are made, they will be shown again.

Here, Advocate Siddhesh Pawar said that our request is that suggestions/objections regarding the issue that will be in front of us be recorded.

Here, one villager objected that many of those present here would not be able to remember the entire presentation.

Shri Sakpal demanded that everyone's demands should be discussed as per each slide. Because many of the participants will not be able to remember that much, 30-40% of the attendees cannot sign.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that first all the Presentation will be shown, then each slide will be shown. Participants may raise their suggestions/objections if any.

Environment Consultant started the presentation, he stated that Project Proponent M/S Adani Green Energy Limited (Agel), Adani Corporate House, Near Vaishnodevi Circle, Sg Highway, Ahmedabad – 382 421, Gujarat State Has Planned To Establish Proposed Nivakane (Integrated) Pumped Storage Project (2700 MW) In The Area Of 361.82 Hectare At Village-Marathwadi, Bharsakhale, Nivakane And Mharvand, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara, Maharashtra.

A pumped storage hydroelectric project is a special type of hydroelectric power station, also known as a 'water battery'. Pumped Storage Projects act as energy storage devices or batteries. They store solar or wind energy generated during the day and use it when needed. In the generating phase, the same water is released from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir by gravity, which generates electricity and supplies it to the grid through an electric current. When the project is not generating electricity, water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir using excess solar or wind energy available on the grid. In a closed loop pumped storage project, water from the two reservoirs is continuously recycled (up and down).

Environmental Consultant stated that the proposed Nivakane (Integrated) PSP is an 'off-stream closed loop' type of Uchandran Hydropower Project. The proposed scheme envisages the construction of two new reservoirs. Upper Reservoir and Lower Reservoir. Both the reservoirs will be connected to each other through a 'water conductor system'.

The 29.57 MCM of water required for this Pumped Hydroelectric Project will be filled once, and the annual water deficit of 1.60 MCM due to evaporation will be filled from the Sakhri-Chiteghar Dam. The annual requirement of the Water Resources Department is 7.62 (MCM) and this water will be stored in the lower reservoir.

Project Consultant said that the distance from the proposed project to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is about 0.5 km.

Shri Bharat Patankar demanded that the slide be shown again while giving information about various birds in the project area. He also advised participants to remember the slide number.

Project Environmental Consultant provided detailed information about the environmental management plan planned during the project construction phase and after completion.

After completion of Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all participants that as per your wish, again each and every slide will be shown.

At that time, Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing, should first explain what the Offstream Closed Loop System is? Also, what is the category of the project as per the EIA notification, what is Category A & B, and the difference between them.

Project Promoter said that two separate dams are built in the closed loop downstream. At that time, Convener suggested to explain through slides. The project proponent said that two separate dams are built in the closed loop downstream

Water is stored in one. We reuse the same water. We do not pump new water from outside. The water we store is reused, so this project is called closed loop offstream. In this project, we reuse the same water, pump the same water, and use the same water.

At that time, a person present asked how long the water would be used. Project Proponent said that the same water would be reused. At that time, the person present asked how it would be discharged. The project promoter said that the same water would be discharged.

One of the attendees asked about the pH of the water released from above. The project proponent said that they do not change the pH of the water. This is a hundred-year-old system. All hydro projects work the same way. Nothing gets mixed in this water. The water will be tested from time to time. The water that comes down from above falls on the Turbine and is sent back up. This is an old system used for hundreds of years. This is the same system used all over the world.

At this time, another person asked where the Upper Side and Lower Side of the project would be located. The project Proponent replied that the Lower Side would be in Nivakane village, while the Upper Side would be in Marathwadi village.

At this time, the Hon'ble Chairman, Public Hearing Committee on Environment, asked for clarification on whether the flow of the river will remain independent. Also, how much water will be required for the initial filling? Also, how much water will be lost due to evaporation? Will water have to be taken from outside and how much water will be taken? Will the project have any impact on the flood situation during the monsoon, or how will the project be kept operational if there is no rain, and will water be pumped from the riverbed if the project runs out of water? Clarification should be given on this.

Project Proponent, while responding, informed that one good thing we are doing is that the Maharashtra Government's Water Resources Department requested us to store the water that will be needed for irrigation downstream, and store that 7.0 7.62 MCM of water and supply it for irrigation throughout the year. We have had preliminary talks with them and we have informed them that we will make an agreement with the project Proponent and store that 7.62 MCM water throughout the year and make it available for irrigation. We will not charge any additional money for that. This means that this area will only benefit if we can use that water for irrigation.

At that time, Shri Prashant Patankar asked whether 7.62 MCM of water would be enough?

Project Proponent replied that we will provide only 7.62 MCM of water to Water resource Department, which is the water that flows during the monsoon. 7.62 MCM water required for WRD/Irrigation scheme will be sourced from the catchment yield during monsoon and stored in the proposed lower reservoir.

At this time, **Shri Pradeep Nikam**, expressed the opinion that when there is a drought or water overflows, when there is excessive rainfall, an explanation should be given as to what measures will be taken in that regard.

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) Advocate Siddhesh Pawar, Residence-I am resident of 124 villages, Village-Bhambavade, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara which are in the radius of 10 k.m. of the project site.

He objected that the information and presentation in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report that was made available for public information was different.

The slides in the presentation are different. There are too many slides in this, or the content of the EIA report is not visible in the presentation. So, the objections I am going to raise are as per the EIA report and I expect a different answer regarding that.

Project Proponent in response, said that a spillway will be constructed here as per the issues raised by Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee. We will not hold back any water. Whatever water there is, it will be released at downside.

Also, the Irrigation Department of the Government of Maharashtra has asked us a request question that whether we will stop/hold 7.0 7.62 MCM water in our project and give it back to the Irrigation Department. So, if there is a demand from the people, we intend to do that too. Otherwise, we will release all the water.

2) Shri Janu Jore, Residence-Javaratwadi, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara:-

You were telling us about the reservoir on the lower side. There is also a reservoir on the upper side, where the villages of Marathwadi and Jawaratwadi are located. They have water for agriculture whole year. Just like the water storage scheme you are going to implement on the lower side of the project, there is a water storage/reservoir on the upper side. Is there any plan to implement it there?

Here, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, along with the above questions, asked what groundwater levels were found in the project area, and whether the proposed project would reduce or increase the groundwater levels. Will there be any impact on the well and borewells in the area? Explanation regarding the measures planned in this regard.

Project Proponent, while replying, said that first the answer to the question of Shri Jore is that First, we need electricity to transport water from the lower to the upper water storage. That connection will have to be taken from the upper side. We will release all the water that comes up during the monsoon at downside. We will not store any water in the upper tank. The water that is in the lower tank will be pumped up.

3) Shri Uday Shelke, Residence-Javaratwadi Village, District-Satara:-

The answer you gave is for the monsoon season. But what will be done in the summer season?

Project Proponent replied that if the Maharashtra government has any plan for the summer, we are ready to implement it. This project will continue in the summer as well, just as it runs during the monsoon.

4) One Villager (Not informed Name)

Our perennial agriculture and drinking water in Jawaratwadi and Marathwadi are all dependent on water.

Project Proponent replied that we will not lift the water from there. In the project, we will take the water from the lower dam/tank to the upper dam with the help of electricity.

At this time, villager raised an objection that water comes from Gat No. 94. At this time, Project Proponent assured to study the site and plan further measures.

5) Shri Bharat Patankar Sir, Senior Environmentalist:-

You are giving wrong information. When you lift water from the lower dam, with help of electricity and release it back down, then there will be water loss there.

At this time, Project Proponent said that there is no loss of water. Shri Bharat Patankar opined that this is wrong. There will be loss of water. Also, in the project, the water from the lower dam will be lifted with the help of electricity to the upper dam and then releasing it down to lower reservoir. There will be losses in transmission. That loss will be due to water hitting the pipe and friction. But losses will happen. This is one part.

Now second part, When do village people require water? The water from the dam is usually required by village people after March or April month. Then the question will arise whether to provide water for the project or to the people of the village?

At this time, if you had a guarantee of water supply, it would not be possible to provide it to the downstream beneficiary area. This will affect downstream irrigation. Even though the project will lift water from the lower dam by electricity and release it back to the lower dam, it will remain in the system. It will not go to the beneficiary area. This will affect the irrigation on the downstream side.

At this time, Project Proponent explained that the loss that occurs is in electricity. An additional 20% of electricity has to be used while pumping. However, there is no loss of water. We are going to keep aside the 7.0 7.62 MCM water as demanded by Water resource Department of the Government of Maharashtra. The project will require 24.0 29.57 MCM water, We will use that, but 7.0 7.62 MCM water will be kept aside.

Shri Bharat Patankar objected that there is no mention anywhere that 7.0 7.62 MCM water will be kept separately. Here Project Proponent showed readiness to give a written guarantee.

Shri Bharat Patankar opined that we cannot keep trust on project officials. We will trust only after meeting with Project Proponent, Senior level Management of the Irrigation Department and after receiving the report. Joint Meeting should be arranged with Project management, Local citizens and Executive Director, Krishna Valley Development Corporation. Only then local people will think further.

6) Shri Babuji Bodke, Jawali Taluka, Dist-Satara:-

The population of Jawratwadi and Marathwadi villages is 1,500 to 2,000. In both our villages, gat no. 1003 in Buchchaware, and gat no. 103, 95, 92, 91 in village Divshe limits – there are water sources in the entire area.

In the layout of the company, it is seen that the company has acquired the land in all these gat numbers. The point raised by Shri Bharat Patankar Sir is correct. We have a perennial crop, after rice comes out, then wheat, then maize, we take pulses. We have livestock, all these things should be considered. We get water free of cost for twelve months. That is our free water, a meeting will be held in both the villages, and a discussion will be held for how much our irrigated land will be acquired by the Project Proponent. So, the natural water which we are getting at no cost right now, should also be made available to both the villages without any hindrance.

Project Proponent has assured that you will get it for twelve months, just as you are getting natural water now.

Shri Babuji Bodke further expressed his doubts that a study should be conducted first to ensure that the tunnels which you are going to blast while constructing the project do not obstruct or change the direction of the water sources

in our natural water sources. Because 80-90% of our land in Jawratwadi and Marathwadi villages is being affected by this project. There will be problem for agriculture and drinking water. Also, water is required for drinking purposes to the animals. You should take a decision in the interest of local people. Here, some participants collectively demanded that water without being given any treatment, i.e. natural water should be provided as we get now.

Shri Babuji Bodke said that our village has a source of natural living water which lasts for twelve months. They are drawing water from the river there. So, drinking water and water required for agriculture and animals is a very important issue in both the villages. It is requested that this issue be taken up on priority.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked about the present source of water supply for the villages of Jawratwadi and Marathwadi.

At this time, Shri Pradeep Nikam, told that there is a village called Bhambe next to our village. The same problem is there too.

7) Shri Krushnat Yadav, Sarpanch, Marathwadi Grampanchayat Divashi Khurd:-

Our important issue is drinking water. You will supply water to agriculture. The natural source of water which we have is nowhere to be found. We should get the same natural clean water which we get now. Also, about two thousand animals from our two villages, Jawratwadi and Marathwadi, graze in this area. The water supply for drinking purposes to domestic animals will also going to become serious. So, we should be given an answer as to what decision we will take regarding the natural water we get.

Project Proponent promised to give the answer in writing also.

8) Shri Balasaheb Sakpal, Residence-Savargar, District-Satara:-

You raised an issue that the Irrigation Department will be given 7.0 MCM of water from the downside R.L. Dam for storage.

So, what is the capacity of the R.L. Dam which is at downside in MCL, and will you provide 7.0 MCL 7.62 MCM of water from the water storage you are going to store on it and return the same by taking 7.0 MCL 7.62 MCM of water from the downside dam?

Project Proponent replied that the capacity of downside R.L. Dam is 7.24 MCL 7.62 MCM. We have not at all planned to come here.

The Irrigation Department itself suggested to us that they would have to spend Rs 350 crore to build a new dam. So, if we are going to build a dam, then their demand was to increase its height and make 7.24 MCL 7.62 MCM of water available to them for irrigation.

Shri Sakpal said that the dam that exists now is an earthen dam. So, while increasing the height, whether the entire foundation will be removed and a new one will be built or whether the height of the wall will be increased?

Project Proponent replied that Central Electricity Authority and the Central Water Commission are both departments of the Government of India. They are the ones who give No-Objection approval to all dams. So, it is mandatory to follow the directives given by both the departments concerned.

Shri Sakpal asked whether the 7.24 MCL 7.62 MCM water storage that was said to be available to the people of the village for perennial use, to which the project Proponent replied in the affirmative.

Shri Sakpal asked whether any part of this 7.24 MCL 7.62 MCM water reservoir will be used for your power generation, to which the project Proponent replied in the negative.

Shri Sakpal objected that there is no information in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report regarding the new water reservoir that you are going to use.

Project Proponent said that whatever water is stored, it will be released. The Irrigation Department has requested us that the farmers should benefit from it. The Irrigation Department said that we should implement their plan of storing 7.25 MCL 7.62 MCM water.

If you have any suggestions or ideas regarding this, please submit them to the Irrigation Department, who will make those suggestions binding on us.

Shri Balasaheb Sakpal demanded that all reports on the additional water supply that you are going to provide, which villages are included in it, and how much water will be supplied, be made available to the locals.

Also, regarding the Upper Reservoir, the villagers of above village have been repeatedly demanding that their perennial source of water, the springs, provide water for perennial agriculture. They are afraid that the water will be polluted due to the project. We will provide the water, but it will be polluted. So, has Project Proponent planned to provide them with water from their natural sources?

Project Proponent, while responding, informed that a study will be conducted in this regard. We have been repeatedly saying that there is no pollution due to the hydro project. Also, the water quality is checked daily and its report is submitted to Government daily.

At this time, Shri Pradeep Nikam, village Indol said that Bhambe village has been completely irrigated without any expenditure. The same is the situation of the villages near the upper tank of the project. The villagers of the upper village are afraid that the natural source of water they get will be cut off due to this project. Because after you build the dam, those natural springs will flow into your dam. That means they won't get the water they were getting till now.

Project Proponent said that this project will not have any impact on the water from their natural water sources.

9) Shri Sanjay Nikam, Mharwand, District-Satara:-

He said that the lower reservoir in Nivakane village is under the Minor Irrigation Department. For this, 301 families have given land. Approximately 156 acres of land has been acquired.

The land given to us by the government for our displacement is 300 acres. However, neither rehabilitation nor any efforts have been made for these three villages. Also, not a single person here has got a job due to the acquisition of land. Also, the villagers of upper side village gave their land, so that the lower part/downside part of it could be fertile. They gave the land, because the water was given on the condition that it would be used only for agriculture. Presentation states that there is 7.0 7.62 MCM of water in the dam. Now that dam is 25-30% complete. Once that dam is complete, its capacity will be 28 MCM i.e. 1 TMC.

Here, Project Proponent replied that you can ask any questions or objections you have regarding the original plan to the WRD – Water Resources Department. We can complete the original scheme only after we were told do so by them. We are ready to complete it free of cost for the farmers whose lands were acquired. Further he said to villagers, please submit all your suggestions to WRD – Water Resources Department, because we are not implementing their projects. We will definitely resolve any of your questions that are within our jurisdiction.

At this time, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, expressed the opinion that we, as the District Administration, understand that if there is any project, it is the feelings of the local people. The initial fill of the PSP that we have

done in the water balance is 29.57 CMC MCM. For irrigation component is 7.62 CMC MCM. That is, the initial requirement is 37.12 MCM. Including water loss due to evaporation, it is 1.60 MCM. According to your statement, only evaporation and circulation losses will be around 2.0 MCM.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that the people present here are basically asking the question of whether the proposed project will contaminate the water sources here. At the same time, if there is a drought or a situation of low rainfall, what will be the priority? Will it be for the PSP or the people's Irrigation Scheme?

At the same time, some issues have been raised regarding rehabilitation. Project victims say that the lands given At this time were given for the irrigation project purposes. There is still 7.0 MCM.

They are committed for it. However, participants are informed that some of their pending demands, or new demands that are emerging, such as employment contracts in exchange for land provided, have not yet been given in the project. Project Proponent say that we will submit them to the WRD – Water Resources Department, because we are not implementing their project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that all these issues will be included in the minutes of the meeting. A copy of these minutes will be submitted to the WRD – Water Resources Department to express the sentiments of the people here.

Chairman clarified that the 7.0 MCM of water will be used for agriculture only. It has been noted in the minutes that there will be no change in it. So, Project Proponent should reiterate this.

Chairman of the Committee further opined that it should be explained to all what would be the situation over a period of time, i.e., as the water will go for refilling, the lining of the dam, the lining of the upper storage, seepage, and the silt that would be filling the dam, there would be transparency in this regard. Also, a question that always comes to people's minds is water quality. If you explain whether PSP will make any difference in water temperature, water quality, and natural elements (organisms) in the water, the doubts in people's minds will be cleared.

Shri Sanjay Nikam, resident of Marwan, said that the original purpose of the upper and lower storage tanks is for agriculture and drinking water, but Project Proponent is going to use the drinking water for power generation. There are also Upper Reservoir and Lower Reservoir, there are large number of natural springs there. Due to the excavation of the dam, they will be destroyed. Therefore, our natural resources here will be destroyed.

Therefore, the problem of drinking water will not be solved by project Proponents. We are getting only 7.0 MCM of water for agriculture. Also, the Upper Reservoir does not come under the Water Resources Department. So how will you provide water for drinking and agriculture to the people living near the Upper Reservoir? Similarly, is water sufficient for the thousands of acres of land where the Lower Reservoir is located? Because water is needed until May.

Project Proponent replied that a written explanation will be given to the issues raised by the participants. Also, a note will be taken of all the issues raised and it will be informed to Water Resources Department. We will not stop drinking water for the project.

Shri Sanjay Nikam objected that the wall being built to construct the Upper Reservoir for the proposed project will destroy the huge natural springs there.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that objections of Shri Sanjay Nikam and other participants have been noted that the natural springs present in large numbers in the area where the Upper Reservoir is to be constructed will be destroyed. Therefore, if there is a shortage of water, water tankers will be required. Moreover, the project Proponent should bear the cost of whatever measures are taken.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the objections as raised by Shri Sanjay Nikam and others have been noted that the natural springs present in large numbers in the area where the Upper Reservoir is to be constructed will be destroyed. Therefore, if there is a shortage of water, water tankers will be required. Moreover, Project Proponent should bear the cost of whatever measures are taken.

Here Shri Nikam and some participants objected that Should we drink tanker water for the rest of our lives instead of the natural water we drink? It means we will be in a situation like the drought-stricken people residing at downside. At this time, Chairman explained that if natural springs are being destroyed and the cost of drinking water, water for agriculture, and water for animals is required for this, I have expressed my opinion that Project Proponent should bear the cost.

Shri Sanjay Nikam said that this is an "earthquake-prone area" and many times landslides occur here.

In 2017, landslides occurred on a large scale in Marwan and Aarav village areas. There has been a discussion in the Legislative Assembly regarding the rehabilitation of Marwan village. This is not mentioned anywhere in the EIA report and presentation. The government has spent Rs 2-2 1/2 crore for the rehabilitation of the people there. They have taken shelter in temporary sheds. Also, the project will definitely affect both the neighboring hills. There is no mention of this anywhere in the report.

Project Proponent said that the company will also take note of this issue. However, the project has submitted a Reservoir Protection Treatment Plan. Also, the project is bound to implement the directives as given by the CWPRS, Pune an Organization of the Govt. of India gives advisory services in the various fields including preventing measures to avoid landslides.

Project Proponent said that no one can guarantee that earthquakes will not occur in the world. However, it is mandatory to implement the prior preventive measures against earthquakes and landslides, as per directives passed by the CWPRS organization of the Government of India and the Maharashtra Government. Further He informed Shri Sanjay Nikam that whatever report he has, it should be made available, it will definitely be studied.

Shri Sanjay Nikam said that this entire area is prone to landslides. The soil here is soft. Also, this entire area is prone to earthquakes. The rainfall here is more than 3,500 millimeters.

Project Proponent replied that the study report they had conducted should be made available, and it would definitely be considered.

10) **Here Shri Pradeep Nikam** said that the land that you are going to acquire for the dam in Marathwadi village should be shown with the gat numbers where there are natural water flows/small stream which were mentioned by Shri Babuji Bodke, who was present, and the gat numbers shown in the presentation.

Here, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all local people, participants that whatever information you have regarding natural water flow/sources-small stream with its gat numbers if given in writing to Project

Proponent, then a report on the extent of the impact of the proposed project on natural resources-streams can be obtained from Project Proponent and will be submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting.

All information about how many natural sources/small stream is there, whether they will go inside the dam wall, and how many perennial sources/streams are there that information should be informed to the project Proponent.

11) **Advocate Siddesh Pawar raised the objection** that If Project Proponents have conducted surveys in all seasons, why have they not found any natural springs? The EIA report does not provide any information about natural springs. There are discrepancies in the report.

- a) Convener of the Meeting informed that Project Proponent will be instructed to provide information of the location of natural sources-small stream, gat numbers, whether they will flow into the dam, and the distance of external water sources-small streams from the dam.
- b) Shri Bharat Patankar Sir objected that many things were not mentioned in the report. The issue of rehabilitation of Aarav village arose, not a single person in it has been rehabilitated.

Though present Project Proponents are not directly responsible for it, it is related to your initiative. Because the government suggested you to increase the height of the dam and you accepted it. If the height of the dam increases, more land will come under irrigation. Therefore, nothing can be done on the land which is no longer under irrigation. Hence, a joint meeting of the Project Proponent, local people and WRD Department, Pune should be organized with prior notice.

Aarav, Nivakane irrigation department will give you the reservoir of the dam and you will say that we have no connection. Then that will not work.

a) Second point is that there is a mention of landslides. However, digging a tunnel here is not dangerous, for this we need a "No Objection Certificate" from the Organization that conducted the environmental study of the Sahyadri mountains.

b) Because when the landslide occurred, a geologist and we local people had toured the entire landslide area up to Koynanagar. Now, it is clear here that the soil/earth here and the fractured rock on it, is converted into soil and hence if a tunnel is built here, it will be dangerous, and if blasting is done, it will still cause a landslide. Such a report is available;

c) Hence, only geologists should be invited to the meeting with Executive Director, Krishna Valley Development Corporation.

Similarly, environmentalists should also be called. In the local language, it is called a "horizontal barrage dam". It was built by our ancestors. Project Proponent said that he will not say anything about it. So, these are ancestral natural streams, they are called horizontal barrage dams, they need to be protected, and the flow needs to continue, they need to be taken care of.

d) **Next Point:-**

This is a wildlife corridor. It is just a few meters away from the proposed project. People from any village here will tell you that leopards, bears, wild boars, bison are seen roaming here. When installations of machines will start for the project and machines will start its operation, they will be seen moving from top to bottom in the village. Hence, Executive Director, Krishna Valley Development Corporation should invite a senior officer of the Forest Department to the meeting. Our question is how the Forest Department gave permission?

f) Wild animals living in the upper side forest do not have the habitat they require, so they come down. Because the contractors of the forest department have cut down the trees in the forest and carried them away on rafts. But other side, the forest department come in our village and shouts the slogans that "plant trees, to save the Earth". Hence, a Committee should be constituted comprising Members of Environment; Ecology; Geology, and Zoology.

g) We will talk about whatever topics are kept on agenda of the meeting there. Our National Rehabilitation Policy states that the public has the right to ask questions about any project, be it private or government, as per Schedule 1. It mentions that if people are affected by a project, the National Resettlement Policy has directed that the number of project affected people should be kept to a minimum.

Shri Bharat Patankarsar said that we are residents of this Satara district and now we will be Project Affected Persons.

Once the project production process begins, all the wildlife from the upper side forest will come down to the village and roam.

h) All projects need to be given options.

i) If you have a private project, then all the information about it should be made available to us. Also, all the villages downstream from the project site are affected by the dam project is affected. There are many dams in this Patan taluka, but not a single dam affected person has been rehabilitated.

j) Even if land is acquired or purchased for the project, the Rehabilitation Act is still applicable. If 250 hectares of land is affected, the Rehabilitation Act applies.

k) Also, Project Proponent should ask us villagers for some alternatives to this project. We will definitely provide them.

l) There is a village called Mandu in Shiralpethe. People are dying there every day. If the animals come down, the same situation will happen in this village.

12) Shri Babuji Bodke, Jawali, Taluka, District-Satara:-

Shri Babuji Bodke said that 157 farmers had given land to the Water Resources Department from 1999-2010. Till today, they have not been rehabilitated. Also, now that our land is gone for your project, our farmers here will become small landholders.

Also, now the issue becomes who will do the rehabilitation, will the government or the company? The land acquisition was done by the government in 1999-2010, At this time, the government did not acquire the land of some farmers who were away from village to earn their daily bread.

Therefore, their land remained in the same place in the same gat number. Now land should be made available to them in the new place as well.

Because they are also going to become small landholder farmers along with us. However, the government and the company should provide them with the same benefits in a co-ordinated manner, because there is no rehabilitation. Therefore, the government should take our land or the company should take our responsibility. All the farmers of Jawratwadi are going to become small landholders.

Project Proponent said that they will follow up with the government regarding the first rehabilitation that has not been completed. You will also be invited in the meetings with government and company.

At this time, one of the attendees expressed the opinion that until a positive decision is made on the above two issues, the company's other activities should be suspended.

13) Shri Bharat Jore, Residence-Javratwadi, Taluka-Patan, District – Satara:-

The issues raised are not being followed up properly. Therefore, the next process should be undertaken only after following up and resolving the issue.

There is nothing written on the rehabilitation slide in the presentation. This means that the company has not taken any notice of rehabilitation. It is also requested to the government not to take any further action until all the documents and records of the heirs are made.

No document should be made in the name of the company. Be it a share certificate or a power of attorney, it should not be done until the government and Adani Company find a solution to this. Our ancestors were deceived in the windmill project.

14) Shri Babuji Bodke, Jawali Taluka, Dist-Satara:-

Company should directly negotiate with local farmers instead of buying land from outside agents. There should be no middlemen. The purchase should be made directly from the farmers.

At this time, Project Proponent said that the suggestions made by him are very appropriate and will be strictly followed. Company Management will conduct transparent transactions.

15) Here Shri Bharat Jore demanded that until then, work of project should not be started.

Also, the company and the government should give us prior notice and give us time to make our purchases. Also, there is a lot of account frauds here.

Project Proponent said that no injustice will be done to anyone. Also, rehabilitation will have to be done along with the government. For this, follow-up will be done with the government.

At this time, Shri Bharat Jore said that Gat Nos. 94, 103, 92, 95 should be taken from those who give. Those who do not give should not be forced.

Project Proponent assured that everyone would be given a fair price. At this time, Mr. Bharat Jori and others present demanded that the company should sit face to face with us- farmers to discuss the fair price.

At this time, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, appealed to the participants that this meeting is an environmental meeting regarding the proposed project. However, suggestions and objections related to the environment should be raised.

16) Shri Sharad Yadav, Gaon-Marathwadi, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara:-

We have gathered here for a public hearing on environmental issues. New issues will keep coming up. We have come from 10-12 km away, while some of the attendees have come from further away. However, the locals should be considered here, and this needs your support.

Question No.1:-

Project Proponent will provide drinking water and water for agriculture. Will the company itself bear the cost or will it be collected from the farmers?

Project Proponent said that the responsibility of providing water for agriculture lies with WRD. We also have to pay it to WRD. However, the company has taken the responsibility of providing drinking water supply and will strictly follow it.

Shri Sharad Yadav demanded that the company should give the assurance in writing. When the company officials come to the village, they should put the issue in writing to the local people.

He informed the people appointed by the company to purchase the land about what and how they will spend the money while paying the farmers. Also, if that money is being deducted from the money given to the farmers, it is a loss to the farmers. The project Proponent said that we have not given such a budget to anyone.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, appealed to register suggestions and objections only regarding the environment, stating that it was an environmental public hearing only.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that your point has been noted. All the slides will be shown again as per the discussions in the meeting. You will then be given the opportunity to speak.

17) Shri Krushnath Yadav:-

About 261 acres of our land, in fact more than that, agricultural land will be acquired in this project. We have a large number of trees that have been preserved for hundreds of years. There are plants, leafy vegetables. Many types of fruit trees, toran, karvande, even wild fruits are there. Therefore, even during the monsoon, a large number of tourists come to our village for tourism. This provides employment to the locals. Since every family keeps cows and buffaloes, dairy farming is also carried out on a large scale. Around 500 families in our Jawratwadi and Marathwadi villages are earning at least Rs 15,000 from this water and agriculture.

If we are getting such a good income, we don't need this project. This project should not be forced on us.

If the government intervenes and imposes the project on us, we will even commit self-immolation, but we will not allow this project to happen here.

18) Shri Maruti Pawar, Bharsakhale, District-Satara:-

Participants have raised many issues. Bharsakhale village has also been mentioned. Due to this project, 90-95% of the land of Bharsakhale village will be acquired.

Now the topic of environment. Project Proponents are going to build a reverse pumping station. It will be underground. When the landslide happened two years ago, our road was closed for traffic for almost six months.

If another landslide occurs, our road will be closed to traffic again. So, what is the alternative?

Project Proponent replied that whenever the government grants any permission, it gives permission only after studying all the conditions there, that is, the geology of the place. When work is going on inside the ground, its effect does not reach the surface.

At this time, Shri Maruti Pawar Bharsakhale objected that when a landslide occurs during the monsoon, the entire mountain comes down. It means that our underground work will have an impact on the land. Due to our underground work, a landslide will definitely occur here. Can you guarantee that it will not happen?

Project Proponent said that a guarantee can be given. Because our company also does tunnel in the Himalayas. All precautions are taken. Apart from that, there are different solutions for everything.

Shri Maruti Pawar Bharsakhale said that until we receive a guarantee from you, we will continue to oppose this project.

Second question.- The people present here have raised the issue of water. Our natural water sources, springs, are going to be destroyed due to the construction of the project.

At this time, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that this has been discussed earlier. However, we should submit the information in writing along with the gat number to the project Proponents. A written response will be obtained from them and it will be submitted to the government.

19) **Shri Balasaheb Sakpal, Residence-Savargar, District-Satara:-**

The advertisement for the environmental public hearing of the proposed project was published in one Marathi and one English newspaper on January 17, 2026. It mentions the villages within a radius of 10 km that would be affected by the proposed project.

The public hearing meeting on environmental issues has been organized at Jawratwadi. However, Jawratwadi does not fall under project-affected village.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that villages at Upper Reservoir and Lower Reservoir falls under Project Affected Area. Since Jawratwadi is a village located in the middle of both of them, this meeting has been organized in Jawratwadi.

Shri Balasaheb Sakpal raised the objection that If we look at the convenience of people to travel, all these housing colonies come under the Nivakane village below. If this public hearing had been in Nivakane village, it would have been convenient for everyone. However, I have an objection to the Jawratwadi public hearing venue.

Subsequently, the public notice in the newspaper announcing the environmental public hearing mentioned that the complete documentation of the proposed project was made available in all Gram Panchayat offices.

At this time, Convener clarified that due to the large number of villages, the document did not reach some villages just one day late. Written receipts in this regard are available at the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office and will be made available.

Shri Balasaheb Sakpal demanded that as many people have not got enough to study. Hence, the Project Affected Villages be given 15 days' period to submit their written suggestions or objections.

Convener of the meeting informed that Hon. Chairman has already given two days' period to send written suggestions/objections. Hence, you may submit your Say within two days. Also, all the environment documents of the proposed project is kept available at the Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara. You can come in office time and after study, can raise your suggestions/objections in writing. It will be submitted to Government alongwith minutes of the meeting.

20) **Shri Bharat Patankar Sir raised the objection that**

Can we study such a big issue in two days and submit our suggestions and objections to you? You should extend the deadline to fifteen days.

After discussions, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that citizens can submit their written Say upto Monday, 23rd February, 2026.

21) **Shri Sanjay Nikam, Mharwand, District – Satara :-**

He informed that the proposal for this project has been changed twice. It was changed to 2023 and then changed to 2025. A project of 2450 MW and 2700 MW generation was prepared.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Project Proponent has to submit an application to obtained ToR from Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. After sanction of ToR, environment

survey in the radius of 10 k.m. project area is to be carried through NABET approved Environmental Consultant for preparation of EIA, which is necessity before Environment Public Hearing. After completion of EIA, Project Proponent submit application to Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai requesting to conduct Environment Public Hearing Meeting. As per directives issued under EIA Notification 2006, this Environment Public Hearing is conducted.

22) Shri Sanjay Nikam, Marwan, District-Satara raised an objection that there is a Revenue area in Niwakne Nivakane, out of which there is a windmill project on 1,100 acres. Now 900 acres of land is being taken for the integrated PSP of Nivakane. That is, 2,000 acres of land is being taken from a single revenue area. Injustice is being done to the indigenous people here. So, is Nivakane the only revenue area for this project?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that the objection raised is noted. It is requested all to raise suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

Shri Bharat Patanka Sir, while registering his objection, said that at the beginning of the meeting, Committee had said that the suggestions of the attendees on other topics would be noted.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that the main topic of this meeting is the environmental public hearing on the proposed project. Therefore, it would be appropriate to register suggestions and objections on the main topic of environment. However, other topics are being recorded.

Shri Sanjay Nikam objected that the proposed project falls under "Eco-Sensitive Zone". The entire Nivakane village falls within the "Eco-Sensitive Zone". All the settlements/residential colonies, here fall within this "Eco-Sensitive Zone" area. This public hearing place is at an altitude of 1,000 meters. From here, 0.5 km. away is the "Sahyadri Tiger Project". The height and filling capacity of the dam have increased, so now the "Sahyadri Tiger Project" is 50 meters away.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee remarked that when this proposal was placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), they would have definitely considered the issues raised regarding ESZ. However, the issue of "Eco-Sensitive Zone" raised in the public hearing will be taken into consideration by the Expert Committee there during its scrutiny.

Also, the area across the Kera river in Bharasakhale village falls under the "New Mahabaleshwar Area". Has the new Mahabaleshwar regulations been implemented here?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee stated that the Planning Authority of the new Mahabaleshwar area is MSRDC. Accordingly, the issues raised by you as per D.C. Rule will definitely be considered.

This matter will be submitted to MSRDC for its direction and further action as the Planning Authority of the new Mahabaleshwar area. MSRDC will take further decision in this regard.

23) Shri Chaitanya Harishchandra Dalvi, Residence-Dumti, District-Satara:-

This is a public hearing on the environment. My first question is –

- a) This Nivakane project is under the control of Krishna Valley Corporation. How was this public hearing on environmental issues organized even though this project has not been transferred? This public hearing is illegal. Because Irrigation Department has not transferred this project to Adani Green Energy till date. If it has, it should be disclosed. The company should answer this first.

Project Proponent said that WRD has given it to Adani for study by signing an MoU as per the rules. At this time, many participants asked whether it has been transferred to them, not for study should be clarified.

Project Proponent replied that the project has been transferred to Adani Green Energy through an MoU. At this time, all participants demanded that if an MoU has been signed, it should be shown on the screen.

At this time, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, told participants that they could inspect all the documents at the Adani office.

24) Here Shri Suraj Vinayak Patankar, Residence-Nivakane, Chairman, Manjure Vikas Samiti:-

If the government has signed an MoU with Adani Green Energy, then it should be disclosed on what basis it was transferred. There must have been some issues before I came.

I am expressing my views on behalf of the villagers of Nivakane and other area. If Krishna Valley has transferred the said project to Adani Green Energy, then has Krishna Valley and the Maharashtra government had any contract or discussion with the project-affected and affected farmers? Then the terms and conditions contained in the MoU should be shown to everyone.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all participants to raise any suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. This meeting is to obtain EC (Environment Clearance).

If you submit a written statement regarding any of the terms and conditions in the MoU of the concerned company, the written reply will be given by Project Proponent will be submitted to the government.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this is a public hearing on environment. The objection that we have not signed an MOU has been noted.

You can also go to Project Proponent's office and check the MoU, check its terms and conditions and register written objections, which will be submitted to Government. Similarly, you can go to the Satara office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and check the documents submitted by the company. I, as Chairman, say that all the issues are being noted.

The main purpose of this meeting is to take note of the suggestions, views, criticisms, and objections raised by local, PAPs and submit them to the government.

25) Shri Chaitanya Harishchandra Dalvi, Residence-Dumti, District – Satara:-

I object again that the project is going to be built in Nivakane village itself. If Nivakane has not transferred the said project to Adani, then this public hearing on environmental issues is illegal.

Second Point:-

Rehabilitation first, then dam. 157 people are eligible for this. But the remaining 300 people have given their land for the Nivakane project. There is no policy regarding their rehabilitation. Then how is it transferred illegally to the Adani?

Next Point:-

They don't even know that there is a village called Aarav, that village has a colony. This public hearing is illegal. Because when the documents regarding the said project were made available in the Gram Panchayat office, the Gram Panchayat had an election code of conduct At this time. Therefore, the local people did not go to the Gram Panchayat office. Davandi – Oral announcement on loud speakers with instruments of drums or Oral announcement on loud speakers with three-wheel rickshaws is not given.

Hence, our objections should be noted and again this Environment Public Hearing Meeting should be called. Here, it is accepted that four villages will be affected. Then who will take responsibility for the civic amenities they need? Also, this is an earthquake-prone area. There is a high possibility of landslides here. The natural resources-natural small streams here will be destroyed by digging tunnels for the project.

Also, are there any authorized dignitaries of the Adani company here? In the name of environment, the poor farmers here are being misled, public hearing notices are being issued in the Gram Panchayat during the code of conduct period. However, this meeting should be cancelled and a new public hearing should be organized again.

At this time, Suraj Vinayak Patankar, Villager - Nivakane, Chairman, Manjure Development Committee, again demanded that the MOU be shown on the screen.

26) Shri Jyotiba Ramchandra Bavane, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat-Nivakane, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara:-

Two months ago, a meeting was held at the Satara Zilla Parishad office under Chairmanship of the Guardian Minister. I myself had raised the question whether the relevant project had been transferred to the Adani company. In this meeting Executive Engineer Shri Shinde, Water Conservation Department replied that the project concerned has not been transferred to Adani project yet, but discussions are ongoing.

The issues of the dam affected people have not yet been resolved by the government. Local farmers have been told that the project will not be transferred to Adani until the issues of the project victims are resolved.

The issue of Aarav village has been raised in the meeting. There is no space for cattle grazing. If work starts there, the villagers of Aarav will not be able to live there.

However, if the local water conservation department transfers it, on what terms and conditions? Those terms and conditions should be announced here. Only then public hearing of the project be conducted.

Officials from all other relevant departments of the government, including Water Conservation, Krishna Basin, Forest Department, Rehabilitation, Revenue, Environment, Patan Sub Divisional Officer, Tahsildar, and all other relevant departments, should be present in that meeting.

Also, on behalf of Nivakane Gram Panchayat, a request was made to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to reconduct this public hearing. This statement was signed by all the villagers. There was a program of the village deity here, so many villagers could not come. However, all departments should bring the documents and hold a meeting, Otherwise, we will boycott this meeting.

27) Person without telling name

We, common people, have a request that a government employee in our Nivakane village has put someone else's name on our land. Our complaint is ongoing with Sub Divisional Office/Tahsildar. Adani's agent has taken the house opposite me. So my land should be given back to me.

Sarpanch, Nivakane demanded that this public hearing be cancelled, otherwise we will have to boycott this public hearing.

At this time, a large group of people were chanting slogans demanding the cancellation of today's illegal public hearing.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all that this is Environment Public Hearing regarding the proposed project for obtaining

Environment Clearance. It does mean that this project is approved. Hence, it is requested all to sit calmly. It is requested to raise suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

28) Here, again Shri Suraj Vinayak Patankar, Nivakane Villager, Chairman, Manjure Vikas Samiti demanded to show MoU on screen. He asked to give introduction of the company officer.

Project Proponent informed that MoU will be made available by post.

Here Suraj Vinayak Patankar again demanded to cancel this meeting, as it is right of the villagers to see the MoU.

Convener of the Meeting informed that all the documents have been made available at Gram Panchayat Office. Here, Shri Suraj Vinayak Patankar remarked that no frivolous answers be given.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Maharashtra Government has made Memorandum of Understanding on 03-09-2024 in which name of Nivakane Project is mentioned. It is inserted in the MoU that –

“On receipt of Application from AGL - Adani Green Limited for water allocation GOM-WRD will facilitate process of water allocation for the project for one time initial filling as well as annual consumption for the requirement”. This type of Memorandum of Understanding is done by Govt. of Maharashtra with AGL.

Chairman of the Committee informed that if anybody have any objections, they may send to GOM-WRD. All the relevant documents were made available at the Gram panchayat offices. It was necessary to the local people to go and study it. Here, few participants informed and objected that they did not get copy of it for study. Chairman of the Committee said that now also they can visit Gram Panchayat office and demand the documents.

29) Shri Jyotiba Ramchandra Bavane, Sarpanch, Nivakane, Taluke-Patan, District-Satara:-

While registering his objection, he said that this correspondence is of 2024. There is no mention anywhere about the terms and conditions imposed while transferring the relevant development projects, how much budget was spent, and how the problems of farmers and project victims will be resolved.

However, no agreement or project handover has been made in this regard. If that had happened, the farmers would have received notices under Section 157.

At this time, Chairman of Committee clarified that I request everyone to ensure that the issues raised by us are valid and the issue under Section 157 has also been taken into consideration. If such final permission is not given by the State Government, then the project will not be implemented in future.

But this Environment Public Hearing is called as per EIA Notification, 2006 of Govt. of India and as per ToR granted to the project proponent. The other issues you are raising have also been noted.

At this time, Shri Jotiba Ramchandra Bavane, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Nivkane, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara, said that the issue of record corrections of the three villages of Mharwand, Nivakane and Bharasakhale is most essential. The work of record corrections is going on. First it should be completed.

Similarly, the issue of Nivakane Dam victims should be put on hold. Only then should the public hearing be held again. There is no use in discussing the environment now.

Chairman of the Committee said that two important issues raised now are record corrections and rehabilitation of the Niwakne Nivakane dam victims. It has been noted and the relevant departments will also be informed. It has been noted that a policy regarding the project should be decided only after that.

Here, Sarpanch of Niwakne Nivakane asserted that a public hearing on the environment should be held only after the records are corrected and the Niwakne Nivakane dam victims are rehabilitated.

Chairman of the Committee said that he has given an explanation regarding the public hearing on the environment. Convener, while starting the public hearing, has said that this public hearing is only for recording your suggestions and objections.

Also, Company Management is obligated to respond to all objections raised by you.

30) Shri Chaitnaya Harishchandra Dalvi, Residence-Dumti, District-Satara:-

He raised objection that this Environment Public Hearing is arranged by the Government only. The government's policy is first rehabilitation followed by dam. The dam victims have not been rehabilitated for the last 25 years, and if the dam has not been handed over to Adani, then this public hearing is illegal. However, today's hearing should be cancelled and officials of all the concerned departments should be called and a public hearing should be held again.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that your objection is noted and participants' remark that this meeting is illegal is also noted. Government will give further Order to us.

31) Here, Shri Suraj Vinayak Patankar again demanded to cancel this meeting, as it is our Right. He appealed that Committee is representative of the Government. Villagers are of the opinion that this meeting should be cancelled. Because, our long pending demands are not still resolved. Our demands are pending at Revenue and Forest Departments. Then how can issues of only Environment is thought? Work started in 2001 and still we have not got compensation. Previous project is still in incomplete stage. Hence, we do not want this project. Don't impose this project on us. Otherwise, we will face strong opposition.

32) Shri Sharad Yadav, Village-Marathwadi, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara:-

He said that our demand is that the public hearing should be cancelled. Land is being bought from him by deceiving our naive farmers. This company has bought 70% of the project area. This should be considered.

33) Shri Suraj Vinayak Patankar demanded again that this meeting should be cancelled.

We don't even want the project. Maharashtra government should not force us. We request this. We don't want anything from you. If this project will end our existence, then why are you holding these public hearings? We don't want the project, I request the chairman and all the members of the committee.

Many local people boycotted the meeting and left.

At this time, **Shri Jotiba Ramchandra Bavane, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Nivakane, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara**, said that until the records are corrected and the Nivakane dam victims are rehabilitated, no villager will attend this meeting.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the issues raised by the villagers regarding record corrections and rehabilitation of Nivakane dam victims have been noted. This matter will be conveyed to the government. Similarly, the concerned departments will also be informed in this regard.

It has been noted in the minutes that the issues raised by the participants are valid and should be resolved first and only then further action should be taken.

Hence, as Chairman of the Committee, I request all participants to actively participate in the public hearing meeting and to register their views, suggestions/objections regarding the environmental plans presented.

At this time, participants demanded that we do not want this project at all. At this time, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said that opinion of the local people is noted. At this time, some villagers collectively said that we have not taken any contract to provide electricity to others. Our existence here is about to end.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that opinion, suggestions or objections of the local people are noted and it will be submitted to Government.

Convener of the Meeting requested all that instead of standing, please sit calmly and give an opportunity to others to raise their views.

34) Shri Mahesh Shelar, Residence – Koyna Nagar:-

I have sent written views to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara office. I am reciting them here-

- a) The organization that prepared the EIA report, in which month was it prepared?
- b) Are there any local rare plants in this area? Has a list been prepared? Is there any planning for their protection and conservation?
- c) Also, there is a wildlife corridor here, will it be destroyed by this project? Planning for that.

Convener of the Meeting informed that the suggestions, objections as received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Satara by email/post/by hand delivery will be submitted along with minutes of the meeting to Environment Appraisal Committee, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India. EAC will take further decision.

Convener of the Meeting informed that main purpose of this meeting is to note suggestions/objections as raised by the local people, PAPs in respect of proposed project and it should be included in the minutes of the meeting and will be submitted after approval of Chairman of the Committee to Central Government through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Project Proponent will answer the questions.

At this time, there was a lot of discussion and confusion among participants. At this time –

35) Shri Babuji Bodke, Jawali Taluka, District-Satara

Appealed all participants that this meeting is called by Government. It is right for us to raise our objections. Going out will not achieve anything. Our demands should reach the government, they should also be known to the company management. However, please do not create confusion.

We know very well what the locals have to suffer here. If anyone has any objection to the project, that too should be presented. The locals should register their suggestions and objections in writing

99% of the farmers in my village have become small land holders and we want to get some things from the government as well as the company. However, please present your suggestions peacefully.

36) Shri Balasaheb Sakpal, Residence-Savargar, Dist-Satara:-

He objected to the issues in slide no. 2 of the presentation that the background of the project has not been explained. Therefore, this public hearing is being conducted

in a wrong manner. Since people do not know the background of the project, people have not been able to study the project

Regarding slide no. 6 – A tunnel is going to be laid in between the lower reservoir and upper reservoir. Objections raised in the meeting are that there is a high possibility of increasing the rate of landslides, as well as the water of the natural springs and seeps here will be dried up. Steps for it. Also, four main villages are going to be affected. In the meeting, Project Proponent has promised to provide a certificate in this regard. So, our demand is that first the certificate should be provided, only then this public hearing should be organized.

Convener & Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to respond regarding landslides and natural water sources.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked whether you have conducted a ground water study regarding water resources? Also, people say that this is an earthquake-prone area. So if you have done a seismic zone study, please provide information about it. Also, information should be provided on how to maintain structural stability.

Project Proponent informed that a ground water study has been conducted. It is mentioned in the EIA report as well as in the EMP in the presentation. The ground water sources are different in each area.

At this time, Shri Sanjay Nikam objected that a total of more than 256 springs will be affected. While developing the project, you will be doing blasting, due to which the springs will be damaged.

Project Proponent said that no blasting will be done anywhere on the ground as it will harm the spring. We have studied it, but if we have any documents regarding it, please provide them, we will also study it. You will be given an official reply.

37) Here, Shri Sharad Yadhav, Village-Marathwadi, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara informed that Mainly, we are talking about the Marathwadi spring. Our spring is inside and a dam is going to be built here. The natural water source is going to go into the dam. So how will we get drinking water from that spring?

Project Proponent said that we will take responsibility for Marathwadi's drinking water. Shri Sharad Yadav said that since it is an environmental issue, he is asking whether our natural source of water is there. I am not against the project, but what will you do if we want to drink water from the same spring? Project Proponent explained that we will make every effort to keep any natural water source intact from a technical perspective. We will also seek help for this.

38) Shri Ajay Yadhav, Marthwadi, Dist – Satara:-

I have no personal opposition to the project. We are supporting it with the belief that this project will benefit the state and the country. At the same time, the interests of the farmers should be protected. Can a tank be built there to draw water from a spring that is underground? We have been drinking natural water till now. So we should get another natural source of water.

Will the proposed project cause pollution? He asked, "I have my own house 50 meters from the dam wall. So what you think of us?" Also, the project Proponents should come to the ground level and do the work of the people.

Project Proponent said that whatever questions/objections you have, they will be answered in writing. Also, whatever social work needs to be done in the project area, the work will be done by taking the locals into confidence.

39) Shri Sharad Yadhav, Village-Marathwadi, Taluka-Patan, Dist – Satara:-

He said that our village has 12 demands. At this time, some of the participants said that since there was a public hearing on the environment, questions should be

asked about it. Also, others should be given a chance, and the same person should not be given the chance to speak repeatedly.

Convener of the Meeting appealed all to raise any suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

However, as per the instructions of the Hon. Chairman, other issues raised in the meeting have also been included in the minutes, but the same issues should not be presented.

40) Shri Balasaheb Sakpal, Residence -Savargar, Dist – Satara :-

Slide No. 6 –

8.0 km down from here is the small Sakhri-Chiteghar dam. For the first filling, water will be brought from the upper dam. There is no mention of whether the water will be brought through a pipeline or tanker.

Project Proponent said that the water that is wasted during the monsoon, we will take it by pumping by laying 2-3 season pipes. The plan will not be implemented unless the WRD approves it. As shown in the presentation, the WRD is yet to approve the plan. We cannot take water without their approval.

Shri Sakpal objected that this report was wrongly prepared because it is not possible to take water from Sakhri-Chiteghar.

Project Proponent said that water from the dam will be released through a spillway. Water can be taken only as per the plan approved by WRD. They do not allow us to block the water.

Shri Sakpal objected that it should be noted that I am of the opinion that this issue is technically wrong.

41) Shri Sanjay Nikam remarked that –

This means that alongwith Niwakne NivakaneDam, Sakhri-Chiteghar Dam has also come under this project.

Project Proponent said that we will take it only for the first filling. WRD has not approved it.

At this time, one person asked that after the water passes through the evaporator, we will take that water from Sakhri-Chiteghar. The project Proponent replied that we will take only 1.6 MCM of water.

42) Here, Name not mentioned asked

I asked, "You have been giving a presentation since morning. So which environmental consulting firm is it? Is it approved by the government?"

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per EIA Notification, 2006 as issued by MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi only NABET approved Environment Consultant only can carry Environmental Survey and prepare EIA report.

Concerned person said that they did not do the survey properly. Because they said that birds and animals are here. People are afraid to go out here even during the day time. There is a tiger reserve 0.5 km from this place. Even at such a short distance, not a single leopard has been seen here. They have come here and conducted a survey or have prepared a report by searching Google.

There is no mention in the EIA report about the damage to animals and trees that will be caused by the development of the project. Is this agency fake? Has this report been prepared to suit the convenience of the Adani company?

Environmental Consultant said that the EIA report has a complete list of animals and trees in Chapter 3. Not a single leopard was seen in it, we locals are afraid to come here at night. How many locals have been included by this environmental consultant? There is no information about how the survey was conducted.

Environmental Consultant said that the presentation did not provide complete information.

43) Here, **Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee** directed Project Proponent to inform people regarding Methodology adopted while carrying the survey. This means they will be aware of the authenticity and criteria of the survey. Are the Adani officials competent enough?, are they allowed to accept that demand?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee while expressing his opinion, advised Project Proponent that people were skeptical about the project management in the meeting. This was because the project management's public relations were not good.

For this, we should appoint a good person, give him a chance to talk to the people. However, make sure that the organization you are going to appoint will work transparently. If we maintain co-operation and public relations, people will co-operate on their own.

44) Shri Bharat Patankar Sir -

People are protesting. I forced you to call a meeting with the Irrigation Department. They said that neither I nor the people present know that the CEO of the project answers. So we should give everyone a phone number.

Project Proponent said that if the environmental consultant conducts a wrong survey and reports incorrectly, their approval will be revoked.

45) Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said here that the issues presented are representative, but the EIA report contains complete information.

46) Shri Mahesh Shelar, Residence-Koynanagar:-

a) He asked the organization that prepared the EIA report, in which month was it prepared?

Project Proponent informed that survey is carried during the period from December, 2024 to August, 2025.

b) There is a wildlife corridor here, will it be destroyed by this project? Planning for that.

Project Proponent replied that the project is outside the wildlife corridor. Therefore, the wildlife corridor will not be destroyed by the project.

Shri Mahesh Shelar objected that it is written in the report that we found mongoose. But there are three species of mongoose here. Also, butterflies were found, but there are different species of butterflies here. Also, mammals may be of Schedule 1.

Project Proponent informed that separate list is inserted in EIA report.

Environmental Consultant said that the Ecological Chapter in the EIA report contains a complete list of butterflies. It also contains a list of all animals and birds.

Also, a list of mammals that are included in Schedule 1 is given. Also, a conservation plan has been prepared in it.

Shri Shelar asked the question whether the locals here know which birds come in which season. So, have you discussed this with them? Because the locals know more about the types of reptiles that come? So At this time, it was important to trust the locals.

At this time, the environmental consultant said that while primary data was available during the survey, secondary data was generated by asking locals.

Environmental consultant said that a conservation plan has been prepared for the birds and animals here, as provided in the budget.

47) Old Person – Name did not mention

Not during the day, but at night, all the animals are on the road here. Cows are seen, while leopards come to pick up dogs.

48) Shri Sanjay Pawar, Residence-Bharsakhale, Taluka-Patan, Dist-Satara:-

My question is that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board says that the EIA report has been made available to all the Gram Panchayats. But the Gram Panchayats have not received the burden of proof yet. I have come from Mumbai for the public hearing. We have informed the people here about the public hearing. Have you given the Davandi – Oral information by loudspeakers with drums or orally informing local people reg. meeting by three wheeler rickshaw.

Convener of the meeting informed that the receipts of all Gram Panchayat Offices is available.

Also, if people come to do surveys, we will also co-operate, but if they are conducting surveys on our private land, they should inform the landowner. For this, it is necessary to take permission from the landowner.

Project Proponent said that a list of all the people coming for the survey will be given to the Gram Panchayat office. The project officer will be available to contact everyone.

Here Chairman of the Committee asked Project Proponent to make copy of EIA and Executive Summary in digital format.

Draft Plan should be informed of Wild Life Board.

49) Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee:-

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that main purpose of this Environment Public Hearing Meeting is to note the suggestions/objections of the people in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. It will be included in the minutes of the meeting and will be submitted to Government.

Now here, Shri Bharat Patankar Sir has raised many important points. The suggestions and objections raised by you are being noted and will be included in the minutes of this meeting.

Also, the EIA report as prepared by Environment Consultant is made available at each Gram Panchayat and at notified offices of the State and Central government. This EIA report is draft report. Suggestions and objections as raised during the meeting will be noted and Final EIA report will be prepared. Just because you raised issues, doesn't mean the EIA was approved. However, the issues you have regarding natural resources-springs should be given in writing. We will inform the government departments about the issues you have raised. We will give you the response we get from them.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that a committee of company officials should be sent to the Gram Panchayats in the project area and provide them with information about the proposed project in Marathi, a language that the villagers can understand.

It will help to clear the confusion that has arisen in the minds of the people. For this, a request should be made to hold a Gram Sabha.

50) Shri Sanjay Pawar, Residence-Bharsakhale, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara:-

He said that Gram Panchayat should be asked to put up the information about its meeting on the notice board, because when asked at the Gram Panchayat office, they say they have no information. Chairman assured that precautions would be taken in this regard.

51) Name did not Mention:-

Company should provide information about which gat number will be used. Also, why is there such a huge gap between Adani's rate for land acquisition in other places and the rate here

Chairman of the Committee remarked that there is no doubt that your ideas are good, but the project Proponents are buying the land through their private system.

52) Shri Balasaheb Sakpal:-

It is to be informed that slides that the study of biodiversity has not included the locals in the survey. The photos included in it look like copy paste. However, we do not accept this report

Convener of the Meeting informed that objections have been noted.

53) Shri Ramchandra Marathe, Marathwadi Villager, Dist- Satara :-

This is our affected area. It will be completely converted into a public school. In 2005, the agriculture department registered the earthworks as a causeway. We have been cultivating this land for generations. The proposed project will destroy the natural wealth. Therefore, we oppose this project,

Convener informed that objection is noted.

54) Various environmental laws have been passed since the Water Pollution (Prevention and Control) Act, 1974. Will the company comply with all those laws, various directives passed by the Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai?

Project Proponent said that everything will be done as per the guidelines. No illegal work will be done in the project. Even after getting the Environmental Clearance (EC), it has to be checked.

Convener informed that every six months the government has to send a compliance report of the concerned company. If you have any complaint, you can send it to the District Collector and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. It will be taken into consideration.

After collecting various environmental samples of the company, if it is found guilty, action is taken against company under the Environmental Act.

Member of the Committee informed that after obtaining EC, company is granted Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate. All the terms and conditions are prescribed. If company violates it, then further action is initiated.

Also, the suggestions and objections raised in the meeting are recorded, and accordingly, the revised EIA report is changed accordingly. However, the attendees should register their suggestions and objections in writing. All of them are placed before the EAC.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that all written suggestions and objections will be submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting.

55) Shri Sharad Yadav, Marathwadi, Taluka-Patan, Dist-Satara:-

A dam is going to be built here. We came to know that water is going to be released from the tunnel. Our stream is at 300-400 acres in area, no water will go in the stream.

The lower side areas where there are farms and orchards will not get any water. Project Proponent said that as per the WRD guidelines, we will not block the existing natural source. It has been given a spillway, it will be released downstream.

56) Shri Balasaheb Sakpal, Residence-Savargar, Satara:-

We have registered all the objections.

They asked whether there are other projects within the study area of 10 km radius of the project. They can be commissioned and we have objections to this.

They objected that even though the environmental consultant had collected various water samples during winter, pre-monsoon and monsoon, they were not collected in front of the local citizens and hence the report was prepared without collecting those samples.

Convener said that the objection has been taken into account.

Convener informed that objection has been noted.

Shri Sakpal objected that four villages are affected. Soil testing has not been done for three of them. However, the soil testing of the remaining villages should be done. Convener suggested to mention the names of the villages. Mr. Sakpal said that soil testing of the villages of Bharasakhale and Nivakane is necessary.

Project proponent informed that soil testing of 10 villages have been done.

Chairman of the Committee informed that Shri Bharat Patankar Sir has given many good suggestions regarding rehabilitation and EMP. So District Collector will be informed these points. Though Project Proponent has shown expenditure Zero for rehabilitation, Government will spend for expenditure.

Shri Sakpal demanded that no process should be taken till all this is done. These four villages are going to be affected, the Rehabilitation Act should be implemented for them. No other process should be taken till the report is submitted to the Commissioner, Rehabilitation.

57) Shri Bharat Patankar Sir:-

When I look at the environmental management plan, I am reminded of the Tarli project. It remained only on paper. Not a single issue has been raised there, so people think the same will happen here too.

Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that this issue will also be placed before the Hon'ble District Collector. The instructions and current status of the Tarli project, as well as the instructions in this project, will be reviewed.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that there should be transparency while purchasing land for the project. Also, the phone numbers of the people who are looking after this work of the project Proponents should be made available to all the locals. He suggested that the project Proponents implement it.

58) Shri Amol Shelke, Residence-Kathewadi, Dist-Satara:-

In Marathwadi, we have sixteen and a half acres of land in Gat No. 92. Half of the land there has been illegally taken by a company. We do not want to sell the land, we want to repair it.

Project Proponent answered that I do not know anything. It should be given in writing.

Chairman of the Committee informed that based on the discussions held in the meeting, the Sub Divisional Office has instructed the Tahsil office to take cognizance of the work of record correction by organizing a special camp.

59) Shri Balasaheb Sakpal, Residence-Savargar, Dist-Satara:-

The boundary of this project falls within an "environmentally sensitive area". The Koyna Sanctuary and the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve are a few meters away. I request

that no project be carried out in this natural environment that would disturb the nature there.

Many dams have been built in Patan taluka, projects have come up. People's lands have been taken away. Land for windmills has been taken away. If lands are to be taken, they should be taken on rent basis and returned after 40-50 years. Also, the suggestions and objections that have been received here should be answered in writing.

The only wish is that this project should be cancelled, but the project-affected people should be given employment opportunities in the project according to their educational qualifications. For this, a notice should be posted in the Gram Panchayat offices of the affected village. The locals should be given permanent jobs. Priority should be given to local people. Please advise now which cadres needed in the project. So that we can organize training for the children here.

Project Proponent replied that priority will be given to locals in the project. Also, we will make all the information available in the Gram Panchayat offices about how many people are needed in the project, how many people can be given jobs in which cadres. Priority will be given to local young boys and girls.

Skill development programs will be undertaken in collaboration with locals. Also, keeping in mind the future employment needs, the scheme is being implemented with everyone in confidence regarding the education expenses and contracts of local youth.

60) Shri Ramchandra Marathe, Marathwadi Villager, Satara District:-
Marathwadi has number 16. There is land in the name of certain people. There is no name of the second brother. Therefore, it was kept as public land. However, the further decision should be taken after considering all the people.

61) Advocate Siddhesh Bapusaheb Pawar, Residence-Bamburdre, Taluka-Patan, District-Satara:-

I have an objection to the EIA report. We have blind faith in the environmental consultant we have appointed. Did he actually come to the site and work?

How many days was the survey conducted in December, 2024? It is not mentioned in it. Also, how many people did that environmental consultant come here for the survey? It was necessary to attach the certificate that the Government of India has approved for environmental consultants. The monitoring period is shown in the report from April, 2025 to August, 2025. However, you have received the scoping approval after the monitoring period.

The report states that the Nivakane project is partially completed. This should be clarified.

Project Proponent said that it has been mentioned as per the WRD report. They had built a 33 meter dam. However, the WRD plan has not been completed. The project was planned in 1999, but it has not been completed yet, the government requested it, so we got ready to complete. The EIA report does not mention the vision of the project.

At this time, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that you are raising very important issues. However, all of them should be given in writing. This EIA report is a draft. This is not a revised report. Your issues should be submitted in writing. They will be included in the revised report.

At this time, Advocate Pawar mentioned the Tarli project. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that they will inquire again about it and inform us.

Advocate Pawar objected that you are going to transmit electricity from the project to near Veer Dam (77 km) in Pune district. There is no information about that in the EIA report

Project Proponent replied that even though the project needs to be approved, the plan is still being implemented by the Power Grid of India, the Government of India.

During the discussions regarding the electricity tower, the Chairman told that the government's policy for this is prepared.

Advocate Pawar asked about the manpower requirement of the proposed project. It is written that we expect 70% locals. Maximum priority will be given to locals in the project.

Here, Chairman instructed the project Proponents to announce an employment plan. Details of how many people will be required at each stage of the proposed project, and how many man-power and in which category, should be made available to everyone.

Chairman of the Committee expressed the opinion that the company needs to contact directly with the concerned candidate. The locals want them to get work in the village itself, and if they get it, it will be beneficial for the project.

Advocate Pawar has objected that the EIA report does not contain concrete figures. The figures are not factual.

No. 6 Who conducted the area survey? How many local people and local experts participated in it? Therefore, there is confusion among the locals that the report was prepared from Google instead of a real survey.

Project Proponent said that the objections raised by local people will be responded in writing.

Advocate Pawar objected that if you are bringing an international standard project, then the statistics are expected to be correct because Patan taluka has now become a home for the landless.

As per EIA Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to conduct an environmental survey within a radius of 10 km of the project. In the report, the Sahyadri Tiger Project Reserve Forest is 0.5 km. So did you conduct a survey further 8-9 km inside? If you did, how you did not find any leopards or wild animals?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested to register only objections.

Next objection – Within 10 km. The work of Tarli project is going on. But it is not mentioned in the report itself. Also, 5.0 km. buffer zone has been mentioned in front of Koyna reservoir. Also, did the Forest Department give permission to conduct a survey there? We conducted a 10 km. survey. The fact that we conducted a survey is objectionable.

Here, Chairman instructed the project Proponent to inform him about the seismic zone and whether any studies have been conducted on it. He should also inform him about the measures he is going to take regarding structural stability.

Also, if a Disaster Management Plan has been prepared for the project, information about it must be included in the EIA report. Information about the alert system for this should be included.

Project Proponent replied that the information about the seismic zone is in the EIA report.

Advocate Pawar objected that there was no information about what measures would be taken in an emergency situation and demanded that it be provided.

Advocate Pawar raised the issue of meteorology. While data on wind speed and temperature have been provided, information should be provided on when, where and by which device it was conducted. Also, the EIA report does not contain concrete information on biodiversity. Species of fish are mentioned, but which ones are not mentioned.

6.13 – Social Environment -

Our important point is how many people saw the survey. You write that 124 villages are within a 10 km radius and the survey has been conducted there. The village where I live has not been surveyed.

My objection is that this is a report prepared in the air conditioning cabin.

6.13 Population – Social Status –

Your organization has not conducted a survey here. The project Proponent said that it was taken from the Census report of the Government of India. Advocate Pawar objected that such a mention was expected.

Number 7 – Effects & Preventive Measures -

Results were given and solutions were not stated.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that you are reading the executive summary report.

The world is in a state of panic due to the Corona pandemic. So, it was appropriate to mention what preventive measures we have in place at such a time.

The report states that 10,000 trees will be cut down, but how was that assessed? Have those trees been tagged? It is objectionable that there is no complete information about this.

Rehabilitation – 346 families are to be rehabilitated. Of these, 25 families are listed as being displaced. This information is incomplete – as there is no explanation as to whether 25 from four villages or 25 from one village.

I am completely opposing this project, which will affect people and cut down trees. The benefit of the industrialists has been taken into consideration without considering the benefit of the local people.

There is another similar project 4.0 km away from this project. However, this project should not be done here.

62) Name did not mention:-

The local language here is Marathi. However, the EIA report was made available in English. Due to this, the common people did not understand the disadvantages and benefits of the project. This public hearing has been conducted in a wrong manner. Therefore, there is opposition to this project.

63) Shri Bharat Patankar Sir:-

Despite the clause in the contract for the Tarli project, the Tarli management was dumping soil everywhere, after we protested, the soil was picked up. Participants have registered objections. This is a multi-sectoral project, they suggested that the village enclaves should be closed. We will not be able to build the project without meeting the objections.

64) Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

He directed CEO of the Project that he knows that this is a hydro-power project and is environmentally sensitive. However, the more public relations you keep regarding this, the more information you provide to the people in a language they can understand, the more the country will benefit.

You are building a 2700 MW project, this is not a small project. People have doubts about the destruction of natural resources, land acquisition, and rehabilitation due to the proposed project. So, if possible, hold a meeting at the Gram Panchayat level and inform them about the project.

Project Proponent assured that any errors in the report and public relations would be corrected.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions/objections raised during the meeting have been

noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting and minutes alongwith the Final EIA, written suggestions/objections after approval of Chairman will be sent to MoEF & CC, Gol through Head Office, MPCB. An Expert Committee will take further decision.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that during the meeting in the discussions, the discrepancies have been observed that - Lack of transparency, lack of public relations, lack of employment opportunities for locals, lack of planning in the report for skill development programs to make locals employable, and lack of a concrete program for rehabilitation.

Chairman of the Committee assured that a meeting regarding rehabilitation will be arranged at the earliest with Hon'ble District Collector, Satara.

Chairman of the Committee directed Project Proponent to arrange Gram Sabha in every village, take Corner Meetings/Meetings at roadside chowk and make awareness among people, then only people will co-operate.

Project Proponent is expecting co-operation from the people, while the people are also expecting co-operation from Project Proponent. The people's struggle has received a well-trained leadership in the form of Bharat Patankar Sir. He will not take the law into his own hands, but he will keep follow-up with the Government Regulatory Department.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the Public Hearing is concluded.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all and on behalf of Hon'ble Chairman declared that the Public Hearing is concluded.

Public Hearing ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed 214 written suggestions/objections as received.


(Amol Satpute)

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


(Babasaheb Kukade)

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


(Nagesh Patil)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Satara,
District- Satara