

Minutes of the Environment Public Hearing In Respect Of Proposed Increase In Production Of Bauxite Mineral from 75,000.0 Tons Per Year to 5,00,000.0 Tons Per Year (Increase by 4,25,000.0 Tons Per Year), Project Area -55.06 Hector (Private Land) In Existing Project At Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State By Project Proponent M/s Dyanlaxmi Developers, Balchandra Krupa Apartment, Achara Road, Kankavali, Taluka-Kankavali, District-Sindhudurg – 416 602, Maharashtra State –

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Increase In Production of Bauxite Mineral from 75,000.0 Tons Per Year to 5,00,000.0 Tons Per Year (Increase by 4,25,000.0 Tons Per Year), Project Area - 55.06 Hector (Private Land) In Existing Project At Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State By Project Proponent M/s Dyanlaxmi Developers, Balchandra Krupa Apartment, Achara Road, Kankavali, Taluka-Kankavali, District-Sindhudurg – 416 602, Maharashtra State was held on Tuesday, the 09th June, 2026 at 1.30 afternoon near project site in front of Samajik Sabhagraha, At – Deepakwadi, Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad, Maharashtra.

Shri Tanaji Patil, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mahad and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sandesh Shirke, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Sanjay Bhosale, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad and Member of the Environment Public

Hearing Committee and Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, Gol) 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 Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Dyanlaxmi Developers, Balchandra Krupa Apartment, Achara Road, Kankavali, Taluka-Kankavali, District-Sindhudurg – 416 602, Maharashtra State to conduct Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Increase In Production of Bauxite Mineral from 75,000.0 Tons Per Year to 5,00,000.0 Tons Per Year (Increase by 4,25,000.0 Tons Per Year), Project Area -55.06 Hector (Private Land) In Existing Project At Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under **Category B1 schedule no. 1 (a) Mining of Minerals**, which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

By an order dated 05-04-2024, the Government of Maharashtra has granted approval for the transfer of the mining lease covering the said 55.06-hectare area from Shri Manohar V. Daryanani to M/s. Gyanlaxmi Developers.

Mining Plan for the project has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) on 05.08.2025.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application on 22.05.2026 along with pre-feasibility report to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) to Ministry of Environment, & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and it has been considered and given online approval on 20-09-2025.

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 the environmental consultant. A detailed environmental survey within a 10.0 km radius of the project site was carried from October, 2024 to December, 2024 (three months). It is submitted to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 12.02.2026 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mahad to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Mahad vide letter dated 11.03.2026 requested Hon'ble District Collector, Raigad, Alibag to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Raigad, Alibag vide letter dated 29.05.2026 directed to conduct Physical and Online Environment Public Hearing on

Tuesday, the 09th June, 2026 at 01.30 afternoon near project site in front of Samajik Sabhagraha, At – Deepakwadi, Meghare, Taluka-Shriwardhan, District-Raigad, Maharashtra.

Afterwards, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019 has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order dated 16.05.2026 as under:-

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|--|-----------------|
| 1) District Magistrate-Raigad, Alibag
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Raigad,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, 6 th Floor, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai – 400 614 | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, 6 th Floor, CBD Belapur,
Mahad | Convener |

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mahad in the local newspaper in Daily Sagar for Marathi and in National Newspaper Free Press Journal for English on 07th May, 2026. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under:-

1)	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
2)	District Collector, Raigad, Alibag;
3)	General Manager, District Industries Center, Raigad Alibag,
4)	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Alibag,
5)	Sub Divisional Officer, Shrivardhan, District-Raigad;
6)	Joint Director, Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health, 6 th Floor, Kokan Bhavan Annex, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai;
7)	Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, A-1 & A-2 Wing, 5 th Floor, C.G.O. Complex, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai;
8)	Tahsildar, Tahsil Office - Shrivardhan, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad;
9)	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Shrivardhan, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad;
10)	Chief Officer, Shrivardhan Nagar Parishad, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad;
11)	Gramsevak, Grampanchayat Offices - Group Grampanchayat Office - Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad;
12)	Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15 th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
13)	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
14)	Regional Officer- Raigad, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6 th Floor, Sector – 11, C.B.D. Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614
15)	Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, C.F.C. Building, MIDC Area, Mahad, Taluka-Mahad, District-Raigad – 402 309
16)	Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board; - Marathi and English Executive Summary were made available;

Convener informed that 6 suggestions/objections have been received regarding the proposed project.

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

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. 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 Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

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

Project Environment Consultant informed that Project Proponent M/s Dyanlaxmi Developers, Balchandra Krupa Apartment, Achara Road, Kankavali, Taluka-Kankavali, District-Sindhudurg – 416 602, Maharashtra State has planned expansion in production of Bauxite Mineral from 75,000.0 Tons Per Year to 5,00,000.0 Tons Per Year (Increase by 4,25,000.0 Tons Per Year), Project Area -55.06 Hector (Private Land) in

existing project At Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State.

In accordance with the order dated 05-04-2024, Government of Maharashtra has granted approval for the transfer of the mining lease covering the said 55.06-hectare area from Shri Manohar V. Daryanani to M/s Gyanlaxmi Developers.

Furthermore, the modifications to the Mining Plan and the Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP) in the name of M/s Gyanlaxmi Developers for the period from 2024-25 to 2027-28 have been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Government of India, on January 7, 2025

A Certified Compliance Report has been received from the Integrated Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Nagpur, on 22-12-2025.

Project holds a mineral reserve (bauxite) of 10.768 million tonnes, with a mineable reserve of 7.915 million tonnes. The depth of the mine will be 10.0 meters. The expected operational lifespan of the mine is 16 years. No blasting will be carried out during mining operations.

Wildlife conservation plan has been prepared for animals listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.

The capital cost of the project is ₹ 770.0 lakh. In accordance with the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board, a green belt covering 33% of the total project land area will be developed. The project requires 37 persons in skilled/unskilled categories and priority will be given to local people only. However, expansion of this project will lead to a significant increase in indirect business activities in the surrounding area.

Project's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget is approximately ₹10 lakh, and the funds will be spent within the project-

affected villages only. An annual recurring expenditure of approximately ₹1.50 lakh will be incurred for CSR activities during the first five years.

Additionally, the proposed capital expenditure for the environmental management of the project is ₹ 72.50 lakh, while the recurring expenditure will be ₹ 17.0 lakh.

In addition to CSR, company has ear-marked funds amounting to 2% of the capital expenditure for Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) regarding the mining project, and ₹15.50 lakh will be spent to implement environmental suggestions raised by local people during the public hearing.

The said project is in the interest of the local area, the State of Maharashtra, and the country.

After the Presentation, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. While asking questions, full name and residential address should be informed.

While raising your views, suggestions, objections, please do not raise a point that has already been made by others; this will allow more participants the opportunity to speak

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

1) Shri Govind Ramchandra Niwase, Residence- Meghare Village, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad:-

Presentation shows that the trees have been planted. Then, the exact location of the trees should be disclosed.

Project Proponent informed that trees have been planted in the ongoing project from time to time. Also, last year, when the mine was in operation, trees were planted.

At that time, Shri Govind Ramchandra Niwas asked whether trees have been planted even though plantations have been carried. Deep pits have been dug in the project site since 2015. Have trees been planted there?

Project Proponent replied that wherever there are potholes, tree plantation is being done in a phased manner. Leveling has to be done there, it will be done. Trees have been planted by leveling in the pit in the upper part.

Shri Govind Ramchandra Niwas said that local people here remarked that the potholes are huge. The water in that pit mixes with the drinking water of the local people, hence, the drinking water gets dusty, muddy. However, local people are demanding that a concrete decision should be taken in this regard, because we local people say that there is a problem of water here.

Here, Project Environment Consultant said that when excavation is done for the mine, at that time only, the planning is done to plant trees. A portion of 7 1/2 meters is reserved on the side of the mine. Tree plantation is planned in that reserved space. If there is a deposit of minerals in the pit, then tree plantation cannot be done in the place of the pit until the place is filled after the mineral deposits are removed. However, barriers will be erected to prevent any accidents due to potholes.

At this time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Project Proponent and Environment Consultant that participant had raised objections on three issues. So tree plantation is one issue, further planning is another issue regarding the pits that are created during mining and the third issue is water should not be dusty/muddy. Concrete measures should be taken on all these three issues. It has been objected that water from the mine mixes with drinking water. However, measures should be taken to ensure that water in the mine does not mix with drinking water while expanding. Planning should be done for the local schemes

implemented by the Government for drinking water, such as lift irrigation. Even if Project Proponent plant trees, but the drinking water problem is not solved, what should they do next is the question faced by the local people.

2) Shri Vidyanand Shivram Pawar, Residence- Meghare village, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad, Chairman of Mumbai Siddhartha Gram Seva Mandal

Here today we have gathered for a public hearing on the environment of the proposed expansion of the Meghare Bauxite Mine. However, it is observed that the presence of villagers in the local villages is only 10%. Only 10-15% of the population lives in the group gram panchayat Meghare Bhardoli limits. The rest of the local people have migrated to Mumbai. If 70-80% of the people here have migrated to Mumbai, how many of them have been invited to this meeting? If 70-80% of the people here are in Mumbai, they have not come, then who is responsible for the decision that will be taken in their absence? Environment is most important issue.

Ten years ago, mining was started by the Ashapura Company from the limits of Chikhad Gram Panchayat. Company has removed all the bauxite here and has destroyed all the areas here. They haven't planted a single tree. Also, as shown in the presentation, even though M/s Dyanlaxmi Developers promises to plant trees, the tankers and dumpers which pass through here do not have a roof. We travel every day and come every fortnight. Arrogance of drivers of the tankers and dumpers here are so much that we local people cannot bear it. We will never tolerate the sufferings of the village.

As Chairman, Mumbai Siddhartha Gram Seva Mandal, I strongly state that the Meghare Bhardoli Group Gram Panchayat should not give permission for the proposed project due to low attendance.

If the environment deteriorates, we won't even get water. Earlier, mining was going on in this area for 10-15 years, while the villagers of Meghare, Bardoli and Bapuli were deprived of water. Even if Project Proponents have brought us water, it is not a favour as you will be the ones who will cut the water and you will give the water.

The last gram sabha was adjourned. So I don't know in which Gram Sabha the proposed project expansion was approved. However, this project should not be started without the permission of the Gram Sabha. This will be opposed by the entire villagers. The neighbouring Gram Panchayat is Dapoli-Mapoli, which is a large Gram Panchayat. They have not been invited here either.

However I want to assert that we should not approve the project unless the entire gram panchayat approves the project. All the Gram Panchayats should be called and their permission should be obtained. But you will not get permission from our Meghare Gram Panchayat. But if you get, we will appeal in Court of Law.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that at the beginning of the public hearing, it was stated that this Environment Public Hearing Committee does not approve the project, reject the project or recommend the project. Environment Public Hearing Committee is constituted to take note of the environmental suggestions, views, comments or objections raised by the people of the affected areas about the proposed project. We are taking note of the suggestions and objections raised by you. Video shooting of the meeting is also going on. Suggestions/objections will be included in the minutes of the meeting, which will be prepared in Marathi and English and will be submitted to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai after getting approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Headquarters, Maharashtra Pollution

Control Board. An Expert Committee will take further decision in this regard.

Also, as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, a public notice regarding the Environment Public Hearing was published in the local language (here in Marathi) and one in English in a national newspaper thirty days before the public hearing on the environment. Everyone as well as organizations working in the field of environment were appealed to be present here. Also, the government has given permission to hold the public hearing. Hence, you should register your environmental suggestions and objections to the proposed project. Government will take note of it.

3) Mr. Ramchandra Kajare, President, Adarshwadi Gramastha Mandal:

Recently, one of our villagers, Shri Vidyanand Shivram Pawar, has told about the damage caused to the local environment and the problems faced by the local people due to the mining work done by the Ashapura company here. The Ashapura company has dug 20-25 feet of potholes. The Ashapura company has not filled the potholes and planted trees there as per the directives. Potholes are lying there. Cattle going to the field are more likely to fall there.

Our borewells were getting very good water. Only since last April, when this mining started, there has been less water in our borewell. There are many springs flowing into the ground. Just as there is flesh and bones in our body, stones in the earth are the bones of the earth. Mining causes the soil to vibrate. Even though project officials say they are not blasting, the villagers say that while extracting boulders/stones below 10-15 feet, the ground is shaking and it definitely affects the underground springs. That is why the water of our borewell has decreased.

However, this is the reason why we object to the expansion of this mining project. Also, this project is degrading the local environment. We villagers had caught an open truck. When the driver was asked why it is covered with tarpaulin, he replied that the tarpaulin for closure remained in the truck. So there is no plan as to who will keep vigil on those drivers.

Trucks of the company's goods pass through the villages here at high speed. It is a threat to the lives of children walking to school here. We want answers to the solutions in this regard.

Now this operating project produces 75,000 tonnes per annum which will be expanded upto 5,00,000 tonnes. What will happen to the forest here?

Due to the activities of such mines, the entire hill collapsed in Malin village at Pune district and many people of the village lost their lives.

Hence, we oppose the expansion of this mine.

4) Shri Mahadev Ghorpade, resident of Adarshwadi, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad

It has also come to my notice that the company has not planted a single tree. All the pits are dug as well. Due to this mining, the problem of water has arisen in the village. Now a lot of people have migrated from here to Mumbai. Not many people from the project affected villages have been able to come here. A lot of people have gone to Mumbai. People cannot even attend the village gram sabha. It would be appropriate to hold this meeting when everyone is at the meeting. However, this mining expansion project is going to hurt us. Hence, we oppose this project.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to register any environmental suggestions, comments or objections if any, about the proposed project.

5) Shri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Telangana

I congratulate Project Management for planning the proposed expansion of the project.

The basic purpose of this public hearing is to examine whether the proposed project has any impact on the environment. It is conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. If there are any suggestions regarding the environment, the Government of India considers them.

Environmentalists want that this mining process should not cause pollution at all. Mining is government property; Whether it is gold, silver or any other mineral, the government lends it to it.

Zero pollution is very important. Of course, the income from mining is also important; However, prevention of pollution should be a priority.

I request factory management to take care to completely control pollution and also consider the suggestions put forward by the villagers.

You have 55.0 hectares of land. Please dig one hectare at a time. After completing the work of one hectare, use the pit created by mining for water conservation work (water storage) or plant trees on the remaining land.

I would further suggest that priority should be given to plant fruit bearing plants and medicinal value plants instead of normal plants.

Also, form a Co-ordination Committee with villagers and government officials. For the development of area, it is necessary to do social work according to the need/demand of the people by using CSR funds.

It is informed that 37 people will get employment opportunities here and those opportunities should be given only to the local people.

In order to empower the local youth for employment, I suggest that Skill Development Training should be organized for them with the help of the government. If they do not get employment here, they can get opportunities in other sectors as well.

I appeal Government to give permission. At the same time, please consider 'zero pollution' in the project.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked the Project Promoter/Project Environment Consultant to answer the issues raised by the participants so far.

Project Environment Consultant said that Shri Ramchandra Kajare has raised some objections about the Ashapura company. We can't give any answer about that. We are not committed to it. We are obliged to respond to the proposed project about which this public hearing is concerned.

Environmental Consultant said that the pits in the proposed project will be 5-10 meters deep. After removing the bauxite from the pit, fencing will be done immediately. After fencing, the rainwater that will accumulate in it will be used as a rainwater structure. Also, participants are right that animals and unwitting people can fall into the pit. However, once the product in that pit is abandoned, it will be fenced with wire. It will be used as a rainwater structure.

The second objection was that the mine causes water depletion. So the answer is that the mining project is on a mountain. So there will be no contact with the water level at the ground. In fact, due to the accumulation of water in the pit, it will act as rain water harvesting. However, I assure you that there will be no water depletion due to the mine.

The further objection that has been raised is that of abandoned pit danger. So the answer is that we are going to be fencing that pothole right away. This will not endanger animals and wild animals.

Shri Sunanda Reddy demanded that the proposed project should implement the concept of zero pollution. According to the Terms of Reference passed by the Government of Maharashtra, the Environment Impact Assessment Report and whatever directives will be given in the Environment Management Plan, whatever environmental protection

measures are given, will be fully implemented. We will definitely adopt the suggestions and measures that the local people will give in this public hearing. Care will be taken to ensure that the people in the project area do not face any inconvenience due to the project.

We will definitely take into consideration Mr. Sandipan Reddy's suggestions on rainwater harvesting, cultivation of fruit bearing trees and medicinal value plants. Mango and cashew trees will be planted there.

Shri Reddy's suggestion to constitute a Co-ordination Committee for utilization of CSR funds is accepted. CSR funds will be spent according to the demand oriented scheme that the public needs by taking the local Gram Panchayat, local dignitaries and social workers into confidence.

In the meeting, it was feared that the risk of accidents is high as the trucks carrying the products from the plant are moving fast. For this, the employees of the plant will stand on the road and control and guide the traffic. They will not be allowed to carry a speeding vehicle.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that one hectare of mining should be done as suggested in the meeting and accordingly the work should be carried out in a phased manner. Therefore, the debris removed from the mine can be used immediately for leveling.

At that time, Project Consultant said that in this mine, O.B. will not be there. There are 2-3 types of minerals in the mine. It will contain highgrade and lowgrade minerals. All minerals have market value. So the pit will be fenced with a wire fence and a green belt will be developed there. Government has approved the mining plan. After the closure of mining, Government of India has directed to convert the mining into a rainwater structure.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that after complete excavation, the mining area will be like a Pazar Lake/Talav.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that along with fencing outside the quarry, fruit bearing trees and medicinal valued plants should be planted there. Environmental Consultant assured that the concerned department of the government will be contacted and the plan will be implemented.

6) Shri Balkrishna Devge Harpal, Sarpanch, Group Gram Panchayat Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad

Group Gram Panchayat consists of two villages – Meghare and Bhardoli. There are also five vastis/wadis. Meghare Bhardoli Development Board has been formed for these five wadis/vastis. In the meeting of this Development Board, the resolution of approval for the proposed project has been read by all and it has been agreed to expand the project of all the wadis/vastis. At that time, the issues related to planting trees by Project Proponent, transporting vehicles under cover and running at low speed is discussed and the company should allow excavation only after following all directives. Accordingly, a letter of consent has been sent instructing the company to comply with the terms and conditions.

However, the project promoters should work according to the consent letter.

7) Shri Mangesh Ramesh Homnak, Former Panchayat Samiti Member, Group Gram Panchayat-Meghare, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad

Gram Panchayat welcomes all the participants of the public hearing on the environment. Company supports various social activities in Gram Panchayats through its CSR funds. However, it is requested to Environment Public Hearing Committee that the stamp duty of the Gram Panchayat has not been received by the Gram Panchayat till date. Gram Panchayat has not received stamp duty for the last ten years. Even after correspondence through Hon. Minister, we have not received any benefit. You are Deputy Collector of our District. All the Gram Panchayats are

requesting you to get stamp duty for the development of the Gram Panchayat area.

The second point is that there is no opposition to the project. However, employment generation has been low since the inception of the project. But employment has increased. There are two Gram Panchayats and five hamlets/wadis, according to which the CSR fund of the company should be increased and development work should be done here. However, the company will continue to request to increase CSR funding.

8) Shri Madan Ashok Pawar, resident of Meghre, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad

Mining has been going on here for the last two years and the locals have got employment here. There is no MIDC in Shrivardhan. There is no employment here except tourism. Due to the mines, many people have taken heavy vehicles and cars to extend services. Local labourers are getting wages. I'm an environmentalist. However, while expanding the project, the local environment should not be degraded.

Also, Project Proponent should continue the project as per the terms and conditions issued by Central and State Governments. In the meeting, the local people objected that the vehicles carrying the product from the plant violate the speed limit. The roads are small. Therefore, there is a high possibility of accidents. It would be appropriate for Project Proponent to take all care of this.

I am not against the project at all. However, the company should increase the CSR funds and spend it in the local village. After the implementation of this project, the local people have got employment opportunities and the income of the Gram Panchayat has also increased.

However, the problems of drinking water in the hamlets/wadies should be helped by CSR funds. There is no resentment about the project here if drinking water is made available to them. Priority should be given to the youth of Group Gram Panchayat, Meghare and Bardoli and project

affected area in employment and this project should be implemented as per the terms and conditions passed by the government.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee urged participants to register any environmental suggestions, ideas or objections to the proposed project.

9) Shri Yogesh Govind Niwate, Member, Group Gram Panchayat, Wadholi, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad:

Thank you to the local people for attending the public hearing on the environment and expressing their anguish about the mining project. Project will not be able to run successfully unless the grievances raised are addressed.

Prior to this public hearing, all gram panchayats and development boards have discussed the proposed project expansion. Accordingly, we have unanimously approved the project.

It has been unanimously decided that the project should be implemented only after complying with all the terms and conditions issued by the government. Also, after the completion of production, a written guarantee has been given that the entire leveling of the place will be done and trees will be planted on it.

Now it's a question of employment. So we have got employment. Also, the additional employment that will be required in the expansion project should be given employment opportunities to the local people.

Now about drinking water. At the same time, an amount of ₹ 2,83,000 has been spent from the CSR fund for the water scheme. The company is also providing funds for social activities in various villages in the area.

Now the next issue is transportation –

If the vehicles carrying the product from the plant are not tarpaulined, then action should be taken against them. For this, I stop the vehicles and

then allow to go after stopping an hour late. We will definitely take care of it.

The next issue is water .

So there will be no blasting on the hill in the proposed project. The excavation that takes place is breaking. The break is only 1.5 to 2 feet. I don't think there will be any water problem.

Now there is the question of pot-holes. The erstwhile Ashapura company did not take any person in the village into confidence. When that company used to blast, our village houses used to get cracks. Later, with the help of all the citizens, we closed the project.

Now there will be no blasting in this expansion project. We have unanimously approved the expansion of the project only after agreeing that the bauxite will be removed only after breaking. We have no problem with this project.

Basic Needs :

Company will address the basic needs of various villages within the project periphery in a phased manner.

Recently we took up this issue in the gram panchayat and it has been approved by the gram panchayat.

In the past, there has been no company which provides a source of income to the Gram Panchayat and provides employment to the local people. So such projects will be coming up, So should we deny it? Company has also promised to plant trees while promising greenbelt development.

If the project does not come, then how local people and the local area will develop?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Shri Yogesh Niwate to file environmental suggestions and objections.

10) **Shri Prashant Vishwanath Shinde, Former Zilla**

Parishad Member, Former Chairman:-

Earlier, two mining companies came here. Now Gyanlakshmi Developers is mining here and plans to expand the ongoing project. Since there is no employment opportunity in this Shrivardhan taluka, 70-80% of the people here have gone to Mumbai for employment. However, this project has provided employment opportunities to the local people here. Company has 126 dumpers, pickups and water tankers of local people and is sustaining about 1,000 people. I say that trees must survive. Company do undertakes a tree plantation programme every year, inviting everyone. So we should implement a policy that the trees planted should survive.

In this meeting, some have objected that the company will cause environmental degradation. However, due to this company, the indirect business in the area has increased tremendously. Company should take special care to ensure that there is no degradation of the environment. It has been alleged here that the dumpers from the company from which they come out are not covered with tarpaulin. But such incidents were happening two years ago. Now the rules have been made strict, hence violaters have decreased. However, if the dumpers do not have tarpaulin, then the contractor should be fined. I do social work, a lot of people come to ask for jobs. So such companies must grow. Because local young boys and girls will get employment opportunities. I am supporting such companies.

Company has also used CSR funds in various villages. At the meeting, some local people blamed that the road is bad. So my demand is that this company pays you royalties on every tonne. Crores of rupees are deposited with the government. If 25-30% of the funds are made available to this village for the road, then there will not be a single pothole on the village roads. However, this project should stay here. I have my support for the project.

11) Shri Baburao Vitthal Chorge, former Chairman, Panchayat Samiti, Village-Tarivine, Taluka-Shrivardhan, District-Raigad

This project has provided employment to many youths in the taluka. The issues raised in the meeting are also important.

Now Environment Public Hearing Committee is requested that Mining Fund which go to the government from here should be given to our village.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the issue of stamp revenue was also taken up in the meeting. Now you have raised the issue of mining royalty. One day, you come to District Collectir Office, Raigad, Alibag, then we will discuss with the concerned department. Also, when there is a DPDC, you should raise this issue with your Member of Parliament, but if you come to District Collector office after planning, both stamp revenue and Mining Fund will be taken up.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any suggestions, thoughts, comments or objections to the proposed project. There was no response from the participants.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee also appealed all to raise any suggestions, thoughts, comments or objections regarding the proposed project. There was no response from the participants.

Chairman, Environment Public Public Hearing Committee thanked all participants for raising their suggestions, objections to the proposed project and for conducting the meeting peacefully and declared the public hearing on the environment concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Received 6 suggestions/objections are enclosed herewith.



(Tanaji Patil)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Raigad – I,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Navi Mumbai



(Sanjay Bhosale)

Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer, Raigad
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Navi Mumbai



(Sandesh Shirke)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag
District – Raigad, Alibag

