

Minutes of the Environment Public Hearing in Respect of Proposed Establishment of Integrated Solid Waste Management Project at Survey No. 4,5,13,14, Mouje Aatkoli, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane, Maharashtra State by Project Proponent M/s Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane, Maharashtra State-

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Establishment Of An Integrated Solid Waste Management Project At Survey No.4,5,13,14, Mouje Aatkoli, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane, Maharashtra State By Project Proponent M/s Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane, Maharashtra State was held on Friday, the 19th June, 2026 at 12.00 noon at KUD Business Cluster, Shed No.10, Savad Village, Bapgaon Road, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane, Maharashtra State.

Smt. Saujanya Patil, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Harishchandra B Patil, Additional District Collector and Additional District Magistrate, Thane, and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Kiran Hasabnis, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan (Additional Charge) 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, 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 of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Thane is a significant city adjacent to Mumbai and serves as a residential city catering to the entire Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Thane city has witnessed significant growth in population, residential areas, and industrial and business activities driven by its natural beauty, accessible transport facilities, and the establishment of renowned IT parks. Rapid urbanization has also led to an increase in the generation of daily waste.

In the year 2025, 1,300.0 Metric Tonnes of solid waste were being generated daily within the Thane Municipal Corporation area. It is essential to dispose of this solid waste in a planned manner.

Recognizing the urgent need for land to scientifically dispose of the daily waste generated in Thane city, Thane Municipal Corporation requested land from the Government. Consequently, with government approval and in accordance with the Order dated April 22, 2024, issued by the District Collector, Thane, the land located at Mauje Aatkoli (Taluka Bhiwandi)—specifically Survey Nos. 4, 5, 13, and 14—has been allotted to the Thane Municipal Corporation for the scientific management of the city's solid waste.

An application dated 15.04.2026 was received on 23.04.2026 at the Regional Office, Kalyan of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board from the Project Proponent - M/s Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane, District-Thane, Maharashtra State, regarding conducting Environment Public Hearing for their proposed establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Project at Survey Nos. 4, 5, 13, and 14, Village Aatkoli, Taluka Bhiwandi, District Thane, Maharashtra State.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under **Category B1 Schedule no. 7 (1)**, which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application on 23.09.2024 alongwith 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 20.12.2024.

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 1st February, 2025 to 30th April, 2025 (three months). It is submitted to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter no. MPCB/442/2026-002/I/2259553/2026 dated 07.05.2026 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi vide letter dated 08.05.2026 requested Hon'ble District Collector, Thane to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Thane District vide letter dated 13.05.2026 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 19th June, 2026 at 12.00 noon at KUD Business Cluster, Shed No.D-10, Savad Village, Bapgaon Road, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane, 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 26.05.2026 as under:-

- 1) District Magistrate-Thane **Chairman**
or his representative not below
the rank of Sub Divisional Magistrate
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra **Member**
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Kalyan,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kalyan
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, **Convener**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Bhiwandi

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi in the local newspaper in Daily Sakal, Mumbai Edition for Marathi and in National Newspaper Indian Express, Mumbai Edition for English on 17th 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, Thane District;
3)	General Manager, District Industries Centre, District-Thane;
4)	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, District-Thane;
5)	Sub Divisional Officer, Bhiwandi, District-Thane;
6)	Tahsildar, Tahsil Office -Bhiwandi, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane;
7)	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Bhiwandi, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane;
8)	Gramsevak, Grampanchayat Offices - Group Grampanchayat Office-)- Aatkoli; Amane; Sape; Kukase; Chiradpada; Pise; Bapgaon; Savadgaon; Chimbipada & Others
9)	Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15 th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
10)	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;
11)	Regional Officer- Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Siddhivinayak Sankul, 3 rd Floor, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan (W), District-Thane-421 301
12)	Sub Regional Officer-Bhiwandi, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Siddhivinayak Sankul, 4 th Floor, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan (W), District-Thane-421 301
13)	Senior Police Inspector, Padgha Police Station, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane;
14)	Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board; Marathi and English Executive Summary were made available;

Convener informed that through email 3 numbers of suggestions/objections have been received regarding the proposed project and during public hearing total 129

numbers of 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.

Environmental Consultant said that rapid urbanisation and continuous increase in population in Thane city and surrounding areas is putting a huge strain on the existing solid waste management system in the city.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generation in Thane city is projected to increase from 1,298.0 tonnes per day (TPD) to 2,319.0 tonnes per day (TPD) by 2042.

For this, Project Proponent Thane Municipal Corporation has planned to implement the proposed Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) scheme at Aatkoli village, where scientific, efficient and sustainable solutions will be provided. The proposed project has an area of 35 hectares (3,50,000 sq m) with a capital cost of Rs. 200 crore and the project requires 50.0 KLD of water. A total of 2,319.0 tonnes per day of solid waste will be generated.

Proposed project will be able to efficiently address the growing needs of public health, improvement of environmental quality and future waste management.

Project Environment Consultant gave complete information about the process of the proposed project, landfill monitoring of the proposed project as well as dust control, odour control and noise control during the project operations.

He also gave a detailed explanation about the health and safety of the workers working in the project.

While explaining the social and economic benefits of the proposed project, Environment Consultant said that the quality of life of the society will improve and there will be a hygienic environment. He also said that capital expenditure for implementing CER activities in the proposed project will be Rs. 300 lakh and the recurring expenditure will be Rs. 30 lakh per year.

Proposed project will play a vital role in improving the health status of the country through proper solid waste management.

After the presentation was completed, Convener Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the presentation of the proposed project has been completed and everyone would have understood.

According to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi had published a public notice about the Environment Public Hearing of the proposed project thirty days advance in one local newspaper in Marathi and one national newspaper in English. Public were appealed to register their environmental suggestions, thoughts or objections about the aforementioned project.

Accordingly, Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi has received one suggestion/opinion from Dr. Pramod Bhoir, Bhumi Putra Sangharsh Samiti through email. Convener read out the suggestions received in the meeting. Dr. Pramod Bhoir opined that: -

We complain that due to the ongoing dumping ground in the Mauje Aatkoli village, which is in the limits/area of Bhiwandi rural, the agriculture, water, air in our area will be polluted and a big question of life and death will arise in future. And why should Civic Administration of Kalyan, Thane and Mumbai dump their garbage at our doorsteps? The real question is why they should not treat and dispose of their waste in their area. Therefore, the dumping ground should be closed forever and justice should be given to us, otherwise there will be a movement of the sons of the soil to do or die. Government will be entirely responsible for this.

In this way, the opinion has been received in the Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi office.

Hence, Project Proponent is requested to give a correct, accurate answer to the public in this regard.

Project Environment Consultant replied that as per the issues raised by Dr. Pramod Bhoir, this project is not a dumping ground but a temporary waste dump is being done here. In order to comply with the directives of Solid Waste Management Rule, 2016 and Solid Waste Management Rule, 2026, the proposed project is going to set up to treat and dispose of solid waste scientifically. Therefore, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has issued "Consent to Establish" (C to E) to the proposed project.

This is a sanitary land fill facility to remove the temporary waste dump completely. Proposed project will also eliminate temporary waste dumps. Once the proposed plant starts, the incoming waste will be segregated immediately. Manure will be produced there. Waste to Energy project will generate energy there. A Sanitary Land Fill site, Material Recovery Facility will be provided. Hence, this project is called as an Integrated Solid Waste Management Project. These various departments will be operational at the same place. All waste will be disposed of scientifically. As soon as the plant starts, the entire dumped waste will be completely eliminated.

Project Environment Consultant conducted a survey in the radius of 10 km of the proposed project for preparation of EIA report and environmental status assessment as per Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.

Pollution in Bhatsa and Kalu rivers has been observed since before this project.

However, no other pollution has been detected due to this dumping.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise environmental suggestions, comments, objections if any about the proposed project. While presenting, mention your name, the name of the village. If the issue has already been raised before by another participant, then there is no need to raise it, so that more people can be given opportunities.

Chairman of Committee informed participants that the issues raised in the meeting will be video-recorded and the minutes of this Environment public hearing will be prepared in Marathi and English. Hence, those who want to raise their suggestions, views or objections, please raise the hand, so that everyone is given a chance to come in front of the mike.

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) Adv. Sandeep Mangal Jadhav, Residence- Amane village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

It is requested that the information given by the Project Environment Consultant about the proposed project in the presentation has been understood by many people here. The suggestions, objections or objections of the people regarding the proposed project are received in your office by email or post. The person who prepared the EIA report should not respond to the suggestions, complaints/objections raised by the participants. However, all the local people should be allowed to express their grievances. We live here, we smell the flies, we are here to tell our problems. However, people should be given the opportunity to voice their objections. From Pise village here, Dr. Shyam Patil has arrived. He has also registered his complaint through email. He will explain the objections regarding the proposed project. There will be a large number of participants and local people sharing their suggestions or objections.

2) Dr. Ghanshyam Patil, At -Pise Dam, Post-Amane, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane-

We have gathered to raise objections to the dumping ground at Aatkoli and how it will be resolved.

Where does Thane Municipal Corporation get its water from? Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) draws water from the Pise dam itself for Thane city, that too from a plot acquired by the Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Also, I myself informed Commissioner, Mumbai Municipal Corporation about this serious problem by email a few days ago. Office of Commissioner, Mumbai Municipal Corporation has either given instructions to their respective offices or they may have formed their opinion.

That is, Thane Municipal Corporation's water pipeline is in Pise village, your drinking water dam is here – in Pise village. Will you take the water from here and bring your garbage/dirt to dump in our area? If someone gives us water to drink, we don't forget it. But Thane Municipal Corporation administration has taken our water, but they are bringing their dirt here. According to the report of the World Health

Organization (WHO), wherever there is garbage dumping, health problems have arisen in that area. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has office in Kalyan. There is an Adharwadi dumping ground. What action did Maharashtra Pollution Control Board initiated on this? It is difficult for people to live there, people there are suffering from respiratory diseases. There are always fire incidences. Also, the fire has increased the number of diseases like cancer. Also, the mosquitoes and flies that have increased there are polluting the water there. If we give water to Thane, will we face your dirty problems?

Further objection – Thane Municipal Corporation has acquired land in this area 5-6 times. Pise Dam of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation (1989), Thane Municipal Corporation (2010), Mumbai Samruddhi Marg (2018), Tata Power Line (1970), then the government mines and now the dumping. We have not given compensation for acquiring our land yet, but dumping is being done in our area. Mumbai Municipal Corporation (MMC), which has taken over the land in Pise village, has not given any compensation yet.

Thane Municipal Corporation takes water free of cost from our Pise village dam, what facilities, social plan has been given to our village? Not even a simple road is provided, but providing drinking water to us is too far. If the project is not complete, then how vehicles carrying garbage come here, minimum 100 vehicles come every day? Now how much smoke comes out there? Why your eyes are on our plots where we are going to have cow grazing/ gurucharan and social facilities for our village?

Thane Municipal Corporation takes our water. Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) has to manage its waste in the area of Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC). If you are going to do it in a scientific way, then do it in your own area/municipal limit area. If you claim that there will be no smell of garbage, then the garbage processing unit should be commissioned in Thane Municipal Corporation area. Buy big plot or rent land in the vicinity, garbage should be dumped there in Thane Municipal Corporation area.

There is a river within the 1/2 km distance from the project site. However, Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIA) mentions that there is no water reservoir in the radius of 10 km of the project site.

Also, EIA report mis-spells the name of the river as Ulhas River. That is, this report is wrong and the report has been prepared without going to the location.

The Bhatsa River is located nearby and water is supplied from there to the Mumbai and Thane Municipal Corporations. Plans are also in place to provide water from the same location to the proposed Bhiwandi Municipal Corporation.

This means that this has been deliberately manipulated and this project is going to be implemented here forcibly.

However, we will not allow this project to commission here under any circumstances. First of all, our problems should be addressed. We gave the land, now some projects are coming in the way of warehouses in our area. Development can happen even if it is late. In such situation, how will the development be done by bringing garbage dumping next to the project?

Next to the location of this project is the Amazon company, There are 2000 people working there. Will Amazon stay there because of the smell problem due to dumping garbage? It means that employment of the local people will also be taken away?

Our villagers are working in different cadres in the godowns. Also, there has been an increase in indirect business there. They will lose their jobs due to the dumping project. There will be no development in that area. This should be noted.

All these objections have been submitted in writing. The report of the World Health Organization is also attached. At the same time, all the evidence related to land acquisition in this area is attached. Even after acquiring the land, the compensation has not yet been received, Evidence of the same is also attached.

However, all these matters should be confirmed and investigated. This project should be closed permanently.

If we look at the geographical situation of Thane district, there are many areas where there is no human habitation. There has been no development. Why not take this project there? Thousands of people are doing business in various places here. There is human settlement, there is a huge stock of drinking water, we are supplying water to Mumbai and Thane, then it should be kept in mind.

Now, Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) has been warned not to pollute the place from where it takes/carries drinking water.

The written suggestions, opinions or objections I have filed should be answered in writing only.

Project Environment Consultant stated that the written issues/opinions raised by Dr. Ghanshyam Patil have been noted and answers regarding two suggestions/issues

is giving now. Here, participants objected that answers should not be given by Environmental Consultant.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that Project Proponent Thane Municipal Corporation has planned to set up an Integrated Solid Waste Management project at Aatkoli village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane. According to the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, it is mandatory for certain projects to obtain Environment Clearance (EC) before commissioning of the project and it is mandatory for the concerned project to prior Environment Public Hearing.

The main purpose of the public hearing on the environment is to make aware local people about the proposed project and the impacts of the project and feelings of people about it, to inform the public about the pollution control system mandatory in the project and to consider the suggestions/objections given by them.

At the beginning of the meeting, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee has already clarified that this Environment Public Hearing Committee does not approve any project, does not reject any project, nor does it recommend the project.

The environmental suggestions, views or objections raised by you about the proposed project are noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting are submitted after approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control, Mumbai to Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there takes further decision in this regard.

However, participants are requested to first give their full name, place of residence before asking the question. Also, it is appealed to raise regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. Ask the question pointwise, so that original question will not be skipped. This meeting has been convened to convey public sentiments about the proposed project to the Government. Hence, environmental suggestions and objections should be raised and efforts will be made to address them.

3) Adv. Sandeep Mangal Jadhav, resident of Amane village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

Adv. Jadhav opined that those who are present have not only one question. We are the people who live here and we have given written notices or objections. It should be answered in writing. There are doubts about the EIA report which was made available, but the report has been read by everyone as well as in the Gram Panchayat.

4) Shri Bhaskar Damodar Mali, resident of Sape village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

Sarpanch of Sape Gram Panchayat has also come here. All the vehicles coming for dumping come from this village itself. When the garbage carrying vehicles are passing, there is a lot of smell from it. Even if the garbage carrying vehicle is gone, there is a smell. There is a smell of human excrement/ excreta. At least 50 garbage carrying vehicles pass through a day. I request Environment Public Hearing Committee to come to our village of Sape and get it ascertained. We object to this project. All of us demand that the dumping ground must go from here.

5) Shri Bhagwan Pandurang Sambre, Gram Panchayat Kurund, Village-Waphale, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

For the first time, Thank you the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) for organizing this Environment Public Hearing, and I strongly condemn the project's Environmental Consultant M/s. Open Arch Design & Enviro Solutions LLP. I would like this public hearing to continue in a question-and-answer mode.

Shri Sambre asked whose garbage is this?

Environmental Consultant replied that the garbage belongs to Thane Municipal Corporation.

Shri Sambre raised an objection, why should we tolerate it? This time Environmental Consultant replied that you please ask questions together.

Project Environment Consultant replied that Solid Waste Management, 2016, and according to the Solid Waste Management, 2026 and under the "Swachh Bharat Mission", it is mandatory for the municipal corporations, municipal councils and gram panchayats to scientifically dispose of their waste.

The next thing is according to the Solid Waste Management Rules of 2026, the municipal corporations have been directed to collect the garbage from the gram

panchayat limits and the waste of the gram panchayat will also be disposed of in a scientific manner by Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils.

At this time, Shri Bhagwan Pandurang Sambre objected that this garbage belongs to Thane Municipal Corporation. Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) should scientifically dispose of its waste in its area i.e. within the limits of Thane Municipal Corporation. We don't want to bring it to our village and play with our health.

Shri Sambre inquired about the area of the plot belonging to the Thane Municipal Corporation. The Environment Consultant replied that the site comprises approximately 35 hectares of land and that it belongs to the Government of Maharashtra.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed to Shri Sambre that Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi has issued Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has organised an environmental public hearing for the proposed project as per the Notification, 2006. Therefore, local people have been given an opportunity to raise their suggestions, views or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Questions related to other topics has another platform.

Therefore, Project Environmental Consultant will answer to any environmental suggestions, views, or objections regarding the proposed project. If you are not satisfied with the response provided by the environmental consultant, you should express your views accordingly.

Shri Sambre, while filing the objection, asked that there is a dumping ground at Adharwadi in Kalyan, Due to this, the health impact on the citizens of the area. If there is a government report on whether certain diseases occur, it should be submitted.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again requested Shri Sambre that it has been clarified in the meeting that this meeting is an Environment Public Hearing regarding the proposed project. Apart from the environment, if there are any questions related to other issues, then the concerned government department should be contacted.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that this public hearing on environment is operational in accordance with the directives of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.

However, you can raise environmental suggestions, opinions, objections or objections regarding the proposed project. The same will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed to Shri Sambre that if he had any questions from the Kalyan Region of MPCB, it should be given in writing in the meeting. Further action will be initiated in this regard and a reply will be sent to you in writing.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed Shri Sambre that the suggestions and objections raised by him will be noted and will be included in the minutes.

Mr. Sambre objected that no one, no system has the right to play with the health of us and our future generations in this independent India. It is a democratic right to breathe well, to live well. However, as a representative of the government, we should convey our feelings to the government and if the dumping ground is being done in the wrong way, then you should be prepared to face the agitation in the future.

6) Shri Ramesh Govind Shelar, Vice President of Sangharsh Samiti, Aatokoli, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:-

Thanks to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for organizing this public hearing. Also, thanks to the Gram Sevaks who have gathered here, as well as the Sarpanch / Deputy Sarpanch of thirteen villages here, who have come to this meeting.

The struggle has been going on since the day the land was acquired. But none of the answers that are being given in the meeting are acceptable to us, because if we look at the geographical history of this dumping ground, the names of the Gram Panchayats are – Talwadi Gram Panchayat. Atpali village is in Talwadi Gram Panchayat. The second gram panchayat – Bhadane – consists of five hamlets (wadis). Third Gram Panchayat – Pise. Adjacent to it is the Pise Dam in Pise Gram Panchayat. So is Pise village mentioned in the EIA report? The EIA report shows the Ulhas river. Also, there is no mention of Pise Dam in the report. The next gram panchayat is Iravali, Savad, Amane, Sape, Khandwal, Kukse, Kurund, Padghe, Raur. There is a gram panchayat in Kalyan taluka, which is Rale. Because it's close. Even if it is on the other side of the river, there is a lot of stench. I visited all the Gram Panchayats yesterday. All the gram panchayats have objections to this project. It will be submitted in writing.

Also, after the minutes of the meeting after approval, a copy of it should be made available to us.

Aatkoli village is just 370 metres away from this dumping ground. Pise Dam is just one km from the dumping ground. It's two hundred meters away. The area of Pise Dam is just 300 meters away from the dumping ground.

The groundwater from the dumping ground as well as the drainage from the dumping area will go into the Pise dam. The same water is being used by Thane Municipal Corporation for drinking. We don't want any answers. We don't want this dumping ground.

As the vice-president of the Sangharsha Committee, I say that if the time comes, we will self-immolate. It should be noted that we will fight till the end.

Also, this public hearing on the environment is in the wrong place. It has been arranged here to prevent the people from coming to this meeting. There was a godown at Padgha, next to the dumping ground, where it was appropriate to hold a meeting. So many people especially women from the affected areas of the project could not come here.

This dumping ground is affecting the health of the surrounding villages. There are four cancer patients in Aatkoli village. There are six children with lung disease. We are more opposed to the dumping ground than to increase this disease.

7) Shri Devidas Madhukar Patil, resident of Sawad, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:-

I am a farmer and citizen living in this village. It has been fifteen years since the water from the village flows into my field and the Gujarati Sheths have been forcing farmers like me to sale our agriculture fields. Today, so much of the hill demolished, houses were built on it. No one pays attention to this. When I went to meet District Collector, I was not allowed to go. In the last ten years, no social scheme has been done in our village. If we try to dump our garbage in Dongari, it is not thrown away to us. If the garbage of Kalyan village can be dumped in Bhiwandi village, then it should be dumped in Savad village itself, because if a farmer is asked why he dumps garbage in his field, he will reply that he can dump it in his field. If such problems keep increasing, how will it happen in the village? If we go to tell you, the police will come in the way.

Today Gujaratis Sheth are pressuring us to take over our farm and the police co-operate with them. Also We do not allowed to meet government officials.

If the Gram Panchayat does not take up the issue of the farmer, the police station, then where will the poor farmer go?

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that objections raised by them have been taken into account. If there are any environmental suggestions or objections about the proposed project, they should be raised.

Shri Devidas Madhukar Patil objected that garbage is dumped in our village by bullying. If one opposes us, fifty boys come together and bully us. Gujaratis are coming to our house and making threats.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that you have been given the opportunity to make some suggestions on the environment. However, hence you are requested to raise environmental suggestions, otherwise the other person should be given a chance to speak.

8) Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir, former Sarpanch, Resident of Aatkoli, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane

More than a hundred truckloads of garbage are dumped at Aatkoli every day without prior permission from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Those vehicles are brought without stopping. A foul odor from it permeates the entire area. Information should be provided regarding whose authorization allows for the dumping of this illegal waste.

While Environmental Consultant was giving this information, participants suggested that Environment Public Hearing Committee should answer the same.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that I am not here to answer you. This is an Environment Public Hearing to take note of the environmental suggestions, views or objections you are raising about the proposed project and bring it to the notice of the government. The environmental suggestions and objections raised by you are being noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. All the documents will be submitted to the Government of Maharashtra. An Expert Committee will take further decision in this regard.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that at the beginning of the meeting, it was informed that this Committee does not approve the project, does not reject the project, nor does it recommend the project. This meeting is called for the

local people to raise their suggestions or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. It will be noted in the minutes of the meeting and it will be submitted alongwith written suggestions/objections after approval of the Hon 'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai, to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra,Mumbai. An Expert Committee there will take note of the suggestions and objections raised by it and take further decision regarding the project. However, you should raise suggestions, objections, questions about the proposed Aatkoli project.

At that time, Mr. Pradeep Maruti Bhoir raised an objection that how can Thane Municipal Corporation dump garbage at Aatkoli without prior permission of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board?

Convener of the Meeting replied that at present there is a total of 85 acres of land. The project will be set up on 35 acres. For this, District Collector's Office-Thane has issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC). NOC is issued after only after taking permission from all the departments, meeting with them and after site visit.

Here Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir objected that in reality, Thane Municipal Corporation Administration has never conducted a site visit. No one has assessed how far Aatkoli village is located from the dumping ground. Was noise pollution and air pollution checked when this EIA report was prepared? Samples are taken near a school in Gorsai village, which is 1.5 kms from the dumping ground. It is checked there to see if there is air pollution or not. Why didn't they come to Bhadana and check the air pollution?

The dam area of Pise Dam is located at a distance of 600-700 meters from this dumping ground. The water from the dumping ground is draining into the Pise dam. The farmers in the vicinity are not able to cultivate in their fields.

Convener of the Meeting said that the objections and suggestions raised are noted. It will be included in the minutes.

Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir objected that the garbage which is dumped there illegally burned. We have complained to District Collector's Office-Thane. Complaints were lodged at Municipal Commissioner, Thane Municipal Corporation. Photo proofs are also given. We have to bear the ill effects of burning garbage. So should we waste our generation for Thane Municipal Corporation's garbage? We can't even sit outside to eat in our village. There are so many mosquitoes and flies. We complained to the

Zilla Parishad through the gram panchayat. Zilla Parishad Health Department has given a report on 21st November, 2025.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that if you have the Zilla Parishad Health Department report and other documents, it should be submitted here. The documents will be submitted to the government alongwith the minutes of the meeting.

Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir raised an objection that now where the garbage is dumped, there is 20-20 feet of water. They throw garbage in the water. Water goes further into the field. Now Environment Public Hearing Committee should inspect the site. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has not done anything. The EIA report has also been prepared in an air-conditioned room.

Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir, while reading the report of the Zilla Parishad Health Department, said that -

A large number of flies were found on the garbage being dumped at the dumping ground. There was also a very foul smell. When we visited the villages of Aatkoli and Chiragpada, we found a large number of flies everywhere. In some places, when the kitchen was inspected, flies were found everywhere. There is a very foul smell in the whole area. There is water on the side of the dumping ground, a part of it is completely damaged. In view of all these factors, there is a strong possibility of food contamination due to flies and many types of diseases in the guards of the area. In future, there is a possibility of large-scale waterborne diseases due to contamination of surrounding water sources. It is necessary to spray regular pesticides on the garbage at the dumping ground and put a layer of soil on the garbage dumped every day. Letter is from the Health Department-Bhiwandi Panchayat Samiti on 21-11-2025.

Environmental Consultant informed that Open Arch Design & Enviro Solutions Company is mine.

In accordance with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, and adhering to the guidelines issued by the Government of India from time to time, only Environmental Consultants accredited by QCI NABET are authorized to prepare EIA reports.

Accordingly, this Environment Public Hearing Committee has been constituted and this Committee has to take note of the suggestions and objections raised by you

regarding the proposed project. You can also register your suggestions/objections in writing.

Here, Environmental Consultant clarified that all the participants here are objecting for the dumping of solid waste and they are right. However, this public hearing on the environment is not for dumping of waste, but for landfill. The dump that has taken place so far has to be completely eliminated.

Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir objected that the same reply was given by Thane Municipal Corporation last year. But they are only dumping garbage throughout the year.

Environmental Consultant said that further process in this regard has started from 2024. Government has approved the Preliminary Approval (TOR) on 20.12.2024. This is the process of environmental clearance. If there is no public hearing on the environment, then the landfill will not get Environmental Clearance (EC). Even if the dumping of garbage is stopped, the garbage will not be picked up.

After obtaining Environmental Clearance, all the processes as shown in the presentation will be carried out on a daily basis. This will eliminate the problem of flies and mosquitoes. The health of the people living in the area has also been taken. Also, arrangements have been made to ensure that the next generation here does not suffer.

Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir demanded that till then garbage should not be dumped here. We are suffering the consequences.

Environmental Consultant said that this has been noted.

Shri Pradeep Maruti Bhoir strongly demanded that the dumping of garbage here should be stopped immediately. Also, this EIA report is made, it is bogus and we do not agree. Visit Aatkoli village, Vashere village, Phulero Pada, Chiradpada. This is a sincere request. Until then, stop throwing garbage.

9) Shri Vinod Ganesh Shelar, resident of Vashere village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

Replying to a question in the meeting, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that the Environment Consultant would only answer to environmental suggestions/ objections regarding the proposed project and would not be able to respond on issues other than environment. My point is that if they are not capable, they should be sit down.

My first question is that Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee has said that Hon'ble Collector, Thane has discussed with villagers and transferred the plot of the village. All the meetings were held at District Collector Office. If the land belonged to Aatkoli village, then the Talwadi gram panchayat should also have been considered. District Collector has not thought about it. If dumping is done, a No Objection Certificate (NOC) of the Gram Panchayat is also required. It has not been obtained. There is a plant of Indigenes at our village which is just 10.0 metres from the dumping site. Many local workers are working there. If their health is in danger, who will take care of them?

We have a borewell here. In the past, there used to be good water. But now impure water comes. So we are going to have health issues. Who is going to take responsibility for this?

The issue of dumping of Kalyan MPCB Region was raised by the participants in the meeting. Builders near the dumping site in Kalyan have incurred losses. If the dumping project is started here, then our housing project in Vashere may go into loss. Also, it should be noted that the employment of one lakh people can be taken away from here.

Convener opined that in addition to the suggestions and objections that have been raised so far, if any, they should be asked.

10)Shri Kapil Dhamne, resident of Chiradpad Village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:-

Information is shared in the presentation. It has been discussed before as well. Project Proponent will set up the project in Aatkoli village. Presentation shows the site selection criteria, while the site of the project is selected by first inspecting the site or selected from the map.

Because we inspected project site, we can see that the flow of water is going to the river. The backwater of the river is just 500.0 metres away from the project site. Then, whether it is a distance of 500.0 meters or 5.0 kilometers.

Irrespective of the distance, if the sewage from the project goes into the river in Chiradpada and Aatkoli areas, it will pollute the river. Depending on the natural design of the project site, the water will flow to the river itself. The measures in this regard should be explained.

Second question: The presentation stated that you collected a lot of water samples within 10.0 km radius of the project site, but no water pollution was found there. Thane and MMC are supplied water from this dam. If it doesn't rain, where will you get the water from? So my suggestion is that project site should not be converted into a garbage depot, but it should be developed as water storage. So, along with Thane Municipal Corporation, nearby villages will also get drinking water. Because our village has common land near the project site.

Next question: Where the projects are going to be set up, there are mines. How many depth do they have? In the mine, the water will flow downstream naturally. Clarification should be given if there is any planning in this regard.

Project Environment Consultant replied that his first question was about drainage — water flowing to the river due to its natural conditions. The presentation gives information about garland drains. Storm water drains/rainwater flows around the project, for which garland drains will be constructed. The filtration chamber will be constructed at the Garland drain which is the collection point, using a natural slope i.e. the lowest level inside the project site. Under no circumstances will the water from the project flow out. Therefore, no water will go to the river from the project. All the planning has been done in this regard.

The second suggestion was that there were mines. So that's the truth. At that time, some participants said that the consolidated EIA report was incorrect.

Shri Kapil Dhamne objected that groundwater sources in the area would definitely be polluted by the proposed project. Water is very important for all. However, the project site should be used for water storage without dumping waste.

11) Shri Ram Dalvi, resident of Amane, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

I am speaking on behalf of Gram Panchayat Amane and Gram Panchayat Phulari Pada. We are a total of 17 farmers. We 17 farmers own 35 acres of land. Chemicals are sprayed on this waste. The water from there comes to our farm. We have paddy cultivation on 22 acres of land out of 35 acres. Last year, only two acres of paddy were planted. However, there is so much chemical in our fields that it is not possible to get into our fields. Last July, the Mandal Adhikari, Talathi, came there and conducted a panchnama. The answer and compensation have not yet been received.

How much do we have to bear the pain and loss that this project is causing us? Is this only place for the Thane Municipal Corporation to dump garbage?

Not only our seventeen farmers are suffering, but all the villagers in all the surrounding Gram Panchayats are suffering from the stench of garbage. In summer, the garbage is set on fire, but in the rainy season it rots. It goes to our farm. Due to this, many people around are suffering. I have a canteen near the project location. In the rainy season, there is plenty of flies. You can't stand there. Therefore, the projects that have come up around the project site will have to be closed. Our only place of business is grabbed for dumping waste, how would we do business? Foul smelling water is coming into our well. However, this should be answered.

Project Environment Consultant remarked that the question raised is correct. The only solution to this dumping ground is to set up a sanitary land fill project. Objections that have been made so far have been made about dumping. We also do not want dumping, we are setting up a sanitary land fill project under Environmental Clearance. The discarded waste will be scientifically disposed of and converted into compost. The dump will be picked up and a wind rose compost will be made there, as well as a waste to energy, as well as a material recovery facility, as well as a greenbelt development will be done by dumping any untreated waste in the mine.

Objections raised by the local people about the dumping are valid. The dump waste is to be disposed of in a scientific manner. The pit has to be recharged and landed there. Waste will be recycled. This public hearing is for the production of fertilizer, bio-gas production and its use as a fuel. These technologies are being implemented in different places in India.

12) Shri Sandeep Shelar, resident of Aatkoli village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

I'm a farmer. Project Environment Consultant informed that most advanced technology will be implemented in this project. So why not implement that technology/process in the jurisdiction of Thane Municipal Corporation area only?

This company and Thane Municipal Corporation have assumed that we people in rural areas are animals. If people live in Thane city, don't people live here? If there is no foul smell from the garbage dumped here, then all the officials of Thane Municipal Corporation should come and stay here for a month. I request the officials of the Public Hearing Committee on Environment to stay for a day so that you can understand our problem.

13) Shri Rajaram Gopal Shelar, resident of Aatkoli village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

Request to the authorities, they won't even give us drinking water, So you will be given a free room for a month, They should stay here and show it.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise environmental suggestions if any about the proposed project. If anybody desires to submit objections in writing, it can be submitted to Representative of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. It will be acknowledged. Also, those who are yet to submit their suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project, it can be also submitted through email srobhiwandi@mpcb.gov.in or rokalyan@mpcb.gov.in . You can post on this. It will be submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting.

14) Adv. Balwant Joshi, resident of Amane village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:-

A presentation on the project was made in the meeting. In this, information was given about scientific disposal of waste, waste to energy project and sanitary landfill site. However, all of us villagers are disapproving this project. We are completely opposed to this project.

This EIA report is incorrect. Blatantly false information is being told here. The houses are located at a distance of 400-500 metres from the project site. There are houses in Aatkoli. Last year, there was a public meeting of four to five thousand people. People's representatives of all parties, representatives and officials of the district administration as well as villagers of nearby villages were present. So understand outrage of local people who are suffers. Here I am few points:-

- a) It should be noted that it is not acceptable for us to bring Thane garbage here;
- b) The land that has been transferred, in the past the plot has been transferred for various reasons. No objection certificate (NOC) of the local gram panchayat has been obtained while transferring the land. The dumping of Thane Municipal Corporation is going on arbitrarily at this land;
- c) Drinking water is taken from here and you wish to throw your dirt at this place. I request Deputy Collector and Convener to take it out for a day. You should be aware of the problems faced by the women of your house who live there day and night;

- d) Presentation gave information about the Waste to Energy Project. However, there is no planning for the processing of electronic waste here. Earlier, people used to directly drink water from the river of Amane village, it was used for farming also. Apart from this, people used to carry fishing activities in the Amane river. Now the water of the Amane river cannot be used even for agriculture purposes also. Muddy water comes out from the agriculture field of Sarpanch Shri Dalvi, just as crude oil comes. The land here becomes barren within a year;
- e) Thane Municipal Corporation is a rich Corporation. So why the Thane Municipal Corporation not commissioning solid waste management in the jurisdiction of Corporation area on the lines of Singapore? In Singapore, waste management is done in the city area only. There is no foul smell anywhere. Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) should implement such a process within its area/limits. So that there will be no foul smell and there will be no health problem. Waste management should also be done on the lines of Norway city.
- f) **Next point:** Setting up a waste management processing plant for the future. Right next to it is a gas pipeline. And across the gas pipeline is the Thane Rural Police headquarters. For this, 54 acres of land has been transferred. There is a Pise dam and a logistics park on the side. Local farmers have prospered after years of struggle. So are you going to hinder their progress and prosperity again? The prosperous area seems to be on the verge of destruction again;
- g) Commissioner of Indore in Madhya Pradesh had come here. He made Indore the cleanest city in India in five years. He should be called to Thane and seek his guidance.

However, villages, farmers and workers should not be destroyed/ruined while managing the waste

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that many issues have been raised. Still if anybody wants to send written suggestions/objections environmental suggestions about the proposed project, it can be submitted to Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan & Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhiwandi by email also.

Participants have raised issues of pollution, health, agriculture, well water pollution. It has been noted that the issue of Pise Dam is near this project, this issue is not in the report. Participants have raised the objections that EIA report was incorrect, flawed

and the survey was not carried properly. All these points have been noted. Apart from these points, if anyone has any environmental suggestions, objections about the proposed project, it should be recorded.

15) Adv. Sandeep Mangal Jadhav, resident of Amane village, Taluka-Bhiwandi, District-Thane:

Participants have shared their feelings about the proposed project. The role is very honest. You must have understood their pain. The problems of the local people at the bottom of the society are known only after inspection and discussions with them.

Company which have prepared this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report is a private company. Also, my opinion is this report should have been given by the laboratory of the Government of India. It was also necessary to re-verify the report of this private company. The relevant EIA report was required to be re-verified by the Thane Municipal Corporation. If Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has re-verified the EIA report, it should be made available to us.

However I am reiterating that the locals people are completely against this project. We have been fighting for the last one-and-a-half to two years to ensure that this project does not come here. The land was transferred to Thane Municipal Corporation on 22nd April, 2024. District Collector, Thane prescribed eighteen terms and conditions to Thane Municipal Corporation. If all those terms and conditions are fulfilled, then only the land can be used. However, Thane Municipal Corporation has violated many of its terms and conditions. Many of the terms and conditions have not been fulfilled. Despite this, illegal dumping has been going on there for the last one and a half years. That is, without taking prior permission from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, the local gram panchayat. Garbage is being forcibly dumped here. This is a dictatorship imposed on us.

However, we demand that the order passed by the District Collector, Thane should be fully implemented. Illegal dumping is going on, 100-150 vehicles come every day.

The EIA report mentions how proposed project is good. The first thing that will happen after the start of the project is water pollution. So the land that has been given for this project is mine site. Water is in it. Bio-medical waste of Thane city is brought here. Thane Municipal Corporation does not decompose their waste. Thane Municipal Corporation has to weigh the garbage. Wet waste is to be processed by segregating wet and dry waste. Also, there is leftover waste, it has to be scientifically sanitized

landfill. Has it happened in the last year and a half? The answer will be NO. This legal directives have to be heard. District Administration has done nothing for the farmers. This situation is serious.

Adjacent to this dumping ground, there is a smart MIDC named Renosys. There are thousands of people working there. If those factories are shut down due to garbage depots, the locals will lose their jobs.

EIA report mentions that social and economic harmony will be maintained. So how are you going to sustain it?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested Adv. Sandeep Mangal Jadhav to submit his explanation on each issue to the Government of Maharashtra if he submits the written memorandum that he is reading.

Shri Jadhav said that he is reading it out so that people know our stand.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested to Shri Jadhav that he should submit a written statement. This means that others can also be given time to raise their suggestions.

Here, one of the participants requested that Shri Jadhav is President of our Sangarsha Samiti. So let him talk.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested Shri Jadhav to raise his points, so that it can be included in the minutes of the meeting to submit it to Government.

Shri Jadhav said that these are people's issues and are related to the sentiments of the people. In the EIA report, wrong things have been mentioned. We have to tell it in front of everyone. Now the EIA report states that Aatkoli village falls under the administrative limits of Thane Municipal Corporation. At the same time, the boundary of Thane Municipal Corporation ends at Kalwa. Aatkoli village is administratively located in Bhiwandi taluka. So how do they lie in this report?

Shri Jadhav objected that the distance from Thane to Aatkoli is 45-50 km one-way. That's the vehicles are going back the same distance. They have been instructed on how to carry garbage as per their bye laws. So these vehicles are brought open from Thane. On the way the garbage falls on two-wheeler rider. If they are violating the rules, So it's up to us to cancel this project. It should be noted that the EIA report is wrong.

The project report clearly mentions that the project is 1.31 km from the project location. There is a river Ulhas in the distance. Its flow flows from north to south. So

where is the Ulhas river?, Where is the Bhatsa river?, Environmental consultants don't know where their boundaries are.

The fact is that it is 1.0 km from the project site. There is a Pise Dam in the distance. Jupada in the submerged area of Pise Dam, Chiradpada, Bhadane, there are four villages in Aatkoli, I have record. The Plot near the dumping project is acquired by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. During the monsoon, all these four villages get submerged. The entire dumping garbage goes to the village through the drains, river water. We drink the polluted water of Pise village. The filtration plant of Pise Dam is at Bhandup. That is, the people of the village drink the polluted water of the Pise Dam.

EIA report falsely states that there is no river in the 10 k.m. of the radius of project. There are many rivers like Bhatsa River, Aamni River, Ulhas River.

Another erroneous EIA report mentions that there is no water source within the 10km radius. That's 10 km. It means that there are no lakes, rivers, borewells, natural sources of water, dams in the area. We have three ponds in our village. The distance between us and Aatkoli is only 1.5 km. If they are getting environmental clearance with a wrong EIA report, then it is completely wrong. You should note that the project is not acceptable to the law and us.

The EIA report mentions that there is no habitation within 200 metres of the project location. At a distance of 200 metres from the project site, Phulora Pada of Pise gram panchayat is home to 100 houses belonging to the Adivasi community. Reports falsely suggest that there is no habitation within 210 metres. A false report has been submitted. We oppose such an erroneous EIA report. There will be 100% damage to the environment.

We want to cross-verify this EIA report, but we should also be provided C.D. of video shooting, written answers to the written suggestions/objections.

Since it is a matter under the jurisdiction of the Hon'ble Chairman, I demand that illegal dumping should be stopped immediately.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked Adv. Sandeep Jadhav for his pointed suggestions and with the approval of the Chairman of Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

However, at that time, **Mr. Namdeo Shelar, a farmer**, demanded to raise his suggestions.

Chairman and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that in addition to the issues raised, suggestions and objections, if any, should be recorded.

15) Shri Namdeo Shelar, a farmer, objected that:-

- a) My agriculture fields is next to the dumping ground. Basically I have not received the notice, but the work on the project has started. This land has been acquired, which is basically illegal;
- b) Without prior permission of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), dumping project has been started, for which a case has been registered. The process should be started;
- c) We don't have a way/road to go where we live;
- d) We will not cultivate crops in the land this time. From the day you dump garbage at the dumping ground till the construction of the project, compensate us not according to the rules of revenue, but according to the rules of our income. Compensate us for our farms, because we can't cultivate agriculture anymore. Due to garbage, there will be insects on the crops. Besides this, people don't come to work. We have lost our livelihood on agriculture.
- e) However, you should inform the government to register cases against them and cancel the project;
- f) I have served notices from the court to 15 secretaries of the Maharashtra government. Our demand is that the project should be cancelled and we should be compensated.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions, views and objections raised have been noted in the meeting and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

At that time, some of the participants demanded to get the copy of the minutes of the meeting.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions, views, objections raised in the meeting have been noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. It will be submitted alongwith written suggestions/objections, revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report after approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there will take further decision.

Minutes of the meeting will be made available on website of MPCB for all. Received 132 Suggestions/objections received are enclosed herewith. Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



(Mrs. Saujanya Patil)

Convener

Environment Public
Hearing Committee And
Sub Regional Officer, Bhiwandi,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kalyan



(Kiran Hasabnis)

Member

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



(Harishchandra B Patil)

Chairman,

Environment Public Hearing Committee
& Additional District Collector and
Additional District Magistrate, Thane
District - Thane