

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PROJECT OF MARKI-ZARI-JAMANI-ADKOLI COAL MINE, VILLAGE: ADKOLI, PAUNAR & GANESHPUR KHURD IN ZARI-JAMANI TEHSIL, YAVATMAL, MINING LEASE AREA: 353.50 HA, PRODUCTION CAPACITY: 1.25 MTPA LOCATED IN TAHSIL ZARI JAMANI, DIST. YAVATMAL BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S. NILKANTH INFRA MINING LIMITED, TIMES SQUARE GRAND, SINDHU BHAVAN ROAD, THALTEJ, AHMEDABAD-380059 GUJARAT

Date : 23/07/2026
Time : 12:00 Noon
Place : At. Project Site- M/s. Nilkanth Infra Mining Limited, Adkoli-Zari-Jamani Mine/Project's site, At. Gut No. 47/2, in the farm of Shri. Pramod There, Adkoli-Pandharkawada Main Road, Village Adkoli, Tal. Zari-Jamani, Dist. Yavatmal.

Preamble:-

Project Proponent M/s. Nilkanth Infra Mining Limited, Times Square Grand, Sindhu Bhavan Road, Thaltej, Ahmedabad-380059 Gujarat has applied to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department (MoEF & CC) Govt. of India, (GoI), New Delhi for permission of carrying out the study in the radius of 10 k.m. of project and preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for obtaining Environmental Clearance for the Proposed project of Marki-Zari-Jamani-Adkoli Coal Mine, Village: Adkoli, Paunar & Ganeshpur Khurd in Zari-Jamani Tehsil, Yavatmal, Mining lease area: 353.50 Ha, Production Capacity: 1.25 MTPA located in Tahsil Zari Jamani, Dist. Yavatmal, Maharashtra.

The proposed project has been approved by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi and Terms of Reference (ToR) was sanctioned on 10/05/2024 & amended TOR was issued on 19/12/2025. As per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, the environment study should be carried in the radius of 10 km from the project site before environmental public hearing and to include in the final environmental impact assessment report the environmental issues raised by the project affected people about the proposed project. As the proposed project falls under Category A-1 (a), it is mandatory to the Project Proponent to obtain prior Environment Clearance (EC) from MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi.

Project Proponent M/s. Nilkanth Infra Mining Limited, Times Square Grand, Sindhu Bhavan Road, Thaltej, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, has applied Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 28/04/2026 for conducting Environment Public Hearing. District Collector, Yavatmal, Maharashtra State, vide their letter dtd. 16/06/2026 in co-ordination with MPCB Chandrapur Office, approved to hold a public hearing on 23/07/2026.

As per EIA Notification, 2006, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Chandrapur in the Local Newspaper in Lokmat & Loksatta, Nagpur Edition for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily The Times of India for English on 20/06/2026. An appeal is made to residents of the area, environmental organizations, residents to be displaced by the project or residents to be affected by the project in any other way to submit their views, comments, suggestions or objections about the proposed project in writing or by email to the local MPCB Chandrapur office till the date of public hearing.

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

- (1) Environment Department, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032
- (2) Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 2nd and 4th Floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-400022
- (3) Regional Office, New Secretariat Building, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change. Opposite VCA Stadium, Civil Lines Nagpur-1.
- (4) Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
- (5) Collector Office, Yavatmal.
- (6) Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal.
- (7) District Industries Center, Yavatmal.
- (8) Sub-Divisional Office, Zari Jamani, Tal. Zari Jamani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (9) Municipal Council, Zari Jamani, Tal. Zari Jamani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (10) Tahsil Office, Zari Jamani, Tal. Zari Jamani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (11) Panchayat Samiti Office, Zari Jamani, Tal. Zari Jamani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (12) Sub-Divisional Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (13) Municipal Council, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (14) Tahsil Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (15) Panchayat Samiti Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (16) Gram Panchayat Adkoli, Kosara, Marki Bk., Pandharkawada, Chinchghat, Dabhadi, Magurla Bk., Bopapur, Dara, Nagar Panchayat Zari, Ardhavan, Bhedala, Dabhadi, Sidhi Vadona, Nimni, Lingti, Yedlapur, Zamkola, Khadki, Kharbada, Mukutban, Pimparad, Hirapur, Magali, Mandwa, Pandharwani, Shibli, Tal. Zari Jamani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (17) Gram Panchayat Vadhona Pilki, Babapur, Gopalpur, Dahegaon, Injasan, Nerad, Sonagaon, Kayar, Ghonsa, Kumbharkhani, Sakhara, Bodad Bk., Ganeshpur, Gadeghat, Parsoda, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (18) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board: www.mpcb.gov.in

It is also informed to the notified government departments (Sr.no.05 to 17 as above) about giving wide publicity at their level regarding Environmental Public Hearing.

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

As per the EIA Notification as issued by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi dated 14th September, 2006, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Office Order dated 11/07/2026 as under :-

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

This office is in receipt 10 notices, complaints, statements, objections regarding the above project and the persons / concerned institutions have been informed to attend the public hearing and submit their views, opinion, suggestions or objections if any complaints, statements, objections.

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

Minutes of the Environment Public Hearing:-

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

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

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

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

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

Detailed Information of the Project -

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

After presentation was made through PPT by the company, the Convener appealed to the participants to raise their environmental suggestions or objections about the proposed project. While raising questions, inform the full name, village. He also informed Project Environment Consultant and Project Proponent to give appropriate answers.

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

1) Mr. Bandu Alias Mahadev Damu Parkhi, Po. Marki, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	For the survival of all living beings in nature, it is essential to maintain ecological balance. If the environment is degraded, human life will become increasingly difficult. Human beings are an integral part of the environment, and any adverse change in environmental conditions has a direct and detrimental impact on human life. The livelihood of the people residing in the area likely to be affected by the proposed M/s. Nilkanth Infra Mining Coal Mine Project is predominantly dependent on agriculture, which is the principal occupation in the area. Therefore, every person dependent on agriculture, whether a landowner or an	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that a lot of issues regarding project have been raised by the speaker. Any further issues raised during the proceedings will be duly recorded by the Environmental Public Hearing Committee as well as by the company, and the company will submit its responses to the same. Several issues have already been covered in the presentation. In case any issues have remained unaddressed, the company will provide information regarding the measures proposed to be undertaken in respect of such issues.

agricultural labourer, should be able to live with dignity like any other citizen of the country. For this purpose, agriculture must remain economically viable and profitable. Who will provide a guarantee that the proposed project will not cause damage to the crops of the farmers? The proposed coal mining project is likely to bring about changes in the environmental conditions of the affected area and may adversely affect agricultural activities. In Zari-Jamani Taluka, the MP Birla Cement Project and two coal mines are already operational. As the project proponents have not taken adequate and concrete mitigation measures, pollution arising from these projects has reportedly caused damage to agricultural crops. In view of the above, the following objections, demands and suggestions are submitted:

1. Groundwater Level:-

The proposed coal mining project is likely to involve substantial withdrawal of groundwater, which may result in depletion of the groundwater table. Agriculture in the surrounding area is dependent on irrigation through borewells. If the groundwater level declines, the borewells of the farmers may become non-functional, thereby converting irrigated agricultural land into rain-fed agricultural land. Therefore, adequate and effective measures shall be undertaken to prevent depletion of groundwater and to ensure the availability of sufficient groundwater for agricultural purposes.

2. Compensation for Crop Damage:-

Due to pollution arising from the proposed coal mining project, agricultural crops in the affected area are likely to suffer damage. Therefore, the rate of compensation payable to farmers for crop damage, on a per-hectare basis, shall be declared in advance and appropriate compensation shall be ensured to the affected farmers.

3. Equal Justice:-

The entire agricultural land of the farmers of the three villages, namely Adkoli, Pawana and Ganeshpur (Kh.), should be acquired and included in the project, so that all the affected farmers of the three villages receive equal and just treatment. If the lands of only certain farmers are acquired for the project, the remaining farmers may face difficulties in carrying out agricultural activities due to pollution and other adverse impacts of the coal mine. This would result in injustice to such farmers.

4. Permanent Employment as per Government Rules:-

An area of approximately 271.60 hectares of land is proposed to be acquired for the coal mining project, whereas employment is proposed to be provided to only 557 persons. The affected landowners and eligible persons should be provided permanent employment in accordance with applicable Government rules, along with salary and service benefits comparable to those provided by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL).

5. Shares in the Company:-

The farmers whose lands are acquired for the proposed project should be provided an appropriate share in the profits of the company/project, so that the affected landowners receive a long-term economic benefit from the project.

6. Development Works:-

Development works in the project-affected villages shall be undertaken in accordance with the directions/orders issued by the Hon'ble District Collector. It has been observed that adequate development works are not being undertaken in the affected areas by the existing project proponents operating in Zari-Jamani Taluka. Therefore, the project proponent shall ensure adequate development of the affected villages and surrounding areas.

7. Water Storage and Management

A suitable water storage structure/reservoir shall be constructed for storing the groundwater extracted during mining operations. The water so stored shall be suitably treated and made available free of cost to the farmers of the affected area for irrigation purposes.

8. Tree Plantation:-

The project report states that plantation of 2,500 trees per hectare is proposed. Therefore, the project proponent shall provide a detailed account of the number of trees actually planted and maintained in the projects already operational in Zari-Jamani Taluka. Any failure on the part of the project proponent to implement the proposed plantation measures would result in environmental degradation and would amount to misleading the affected people. The Mahua trees, which have sustained the livelihood and survival of the local people for generations, are also being destroyed. Therefore, adequate measures shall be taken for their protection, conservation and compensatory plantation.

9. Mining and Reclamation:-

It is understood that, after the seventh year from commencement of mining operations, mining and reclamation/backfilling are required to be undertaken simultaneously as per the applicable provisions/rules. However, this requirement is reportedly not being complied with. The affected people are not being provided proper information regarding compliance, and adequate plantation is also reportedly not being undertaken. Therefore, strict compliance with the prescribed mining, reclamation, backfilling and plantation requirements shall be ensured, and the compliance status shall be made available to the public.

10. Management and Protection of Wild Animals:-

The area likely to be affected by the proposed project is inhabited by several species of wild animals, including tigers, deer and wild boars. A proper assessment and record of the wildlife present in the affected area has not been undertaken/provided. Farmers are already suffering crop losses due to damage caused by wild boars. The proposed coal mining activities may further disturb wildlife and may increase the movement of wild animals, particularly wild boars, into agricultural fields, thereby causing additional crop damage. Therefore, a comprehensive wildlife management and mitigation plan shall be prepared and implemented, including effective measures to prevent crop damage caused by wild animals and to protect both wildlife and farmers.

11. Health Assurance:-

The proposed coal mining project is likely to adversely affect the health of the people residing in the affected area. Therefore, the project proponent shall establish and operate its own healthcare facility/dispensary in the affected area and provide qualified specialist doctors and adequate medical facilities to the local population free of cost. Regular health check-ups and health monitoring of the affected population shall also be undertaken.

12. Transportation Arrangement:-

The project proponent shall construct and maintain a dedicated road/transportation route for transportation of coal so as to minimize the risk of accidents and inconvenience to the local population. Necessary measures shall be taken to ensure that transportation of coal does not cause air pollution, dust pollution or other environmental hazards. Covered vehicles and appropriate dust-control measures shall be ensured during transportation.

13. Infrastructure Facilities:-

Adequate infrastructure facilities such as education, healthcare, drinking water, roads, agricultural facilities and animal husbandry facilities shall be provided to the people residing in the coal mine-affected area. Since coal mining activities are being undertaken in the area, agricultural electricity supply to the affected farmers shall preferably be provided during daytime so as to facilitate agricultural operations. The benefits of local natural resources should not be disproportionately diverted elsewhere at the cost of the affected local population.

14. Land Purchase – Equal Compensation:-

At the time of acquisition/purchase of agricultural land, all similarly situated farmers shall be provided equal and fair compensation in accordance with the applicable rules and norms. The compensation rates offered to the landowners shall be transparently disclosed and widely publicized through appropriate media so that there is transparency in the process and no farmer is subjected to discrimination or injustice.

15. Agricultural Guidance:-

In order to prevent or minimize damage to agricultural crops due to the activities of the coal mine, appropriate agricultural guidance and technical assistance shall be provided to the farmers of the affected area. Agricultural awareness programmes and farmers' meetings/camps shall be organized through the concerned agricultural authorities and experts.

16. Conservation of Ancient Temple and Heritage Structure:-

It appears that the requisite information/consultation regarding the ancient heritage structures in the project-affected area has not been adequately obtained from the competent Archaeological/Heritage authorities. There are several ancient temples and

	heritage structures in the area likely to be affected by the proposed coal mining project. At a distance of approximately 10 km from the proposed project, near Kayar village, there is an ancient temple known as Bhudkeshwar, associated with a hot-water spring of significance in the Vidarbha region. Therefore, necessary information and clearance/permission from the competent Archaeological/Heritage Department shall be obtained, and appropriate measures shall be undertaken for the preservation and conservation of the said ancient structure. Further, necessary steps shall be taken for the renovation and development of the Bhudkeshwar Temple and its associated heritage site without compromising its historical and cultural character. Conclusion:- In view of the above objections, concerns and demands raised by the affected people, the project proponent shall provide clear, specific and satisfactory replies to each of the issues raised above and shall incorporate appropriate mitigation and remedial measures in the project proposal. If the project proponent is not willing to accept or adequately address the above-mentioned objections and demands, the proposed Public Hearing/Public Consultation may be cancelled.	
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2) Mr. Chandrakant Ghugul, Farmer & Shivesena (Shinde Group) Vidhansabha Head, Ganeshpur (Kh), Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	A public hearing had also been conducted earlier in Mangli village. I do not oppose industrialization. However, there are two coal mines in Zarijamni Taluka, of which one is operational while the other is closed. In addition, the area has 8-10	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the company had already been instructed during the land acquisition process that the involvement of any

dolomite projects, lime kilns, and one major cement industry in operation. However, considering the deteriorating condition of the villages affected by these projects, I allege that the officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board visit this area only for conducting public hearings. The greatest impact of this situation is being borne by the local farmers and the general public. Furthermore, local residents are compelled to resort to hunger strikes in protest against these issues. Due to pollution in the vicinity of these projects, the quality of agricultural produce in the area has deteriorated, resulting in farmers not receiving remunerative prices for their produce. Owing to the poor quality of cotton, the produce is often rejected, and farmers are deprived of fair prices under the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) policy. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should take cognizance of this issue by conducting site visits to the projects, interacting with and enquiring with farmers residing in the adjoining areas, and directing the project proponents to compensate the affected farmers at prevailing market rates. In cases where a farmer's entire landholding is not acquired, compensation should nevertheless be determined after evaluating the value of the entire agricultural holding and should be paid at the prevailing market rate. Once the project becomes operational, pollution and health-related problems are likely to arise. Therefore, the company should establish a hospital or healthcare facility to address such health issues. Employment should be provided to project-affected farmers as well as agricultural labourers directly on the company's payroll. Employment should not be provided through contractors, as contractors often indulge in arbitrary practices. Priority in employment should be given to the youth of Adkoli, Pavanar, and Ganeshpur (Kh.) villages, and only thereafter should preference be extended	middleman or broker would invite appropriate action against the company. The company has also clarified that there will be no intervention of any broker at any stage of the land acquisition process. If any such instance comes to notice, the affected persons may lodge a complaint with the Sub-Divisional Officer, and appropriate cognizance of the matter will be taken. Local residents need not travel to the District Collector's Office at Yavatmal for this purpose. With regard to compensation for crop losses, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. The committee visited the area on the 19th of the previous month. The District Collector is also a member of the said committee. The committee is submitting recommendations to the Government regarding appropriate compensation mechanisms and is also formulating a policy to determine the extent of financial assistance required for each agricultural season. The committee has inspected the mine-affected areas in the Wani region. The report has been submitted by the District Collector's Office, and it is expected that a resolution will be arrived at within the next two to three months. The company shall also be bound by the decisions taken in this regard. With respect to the company's commitment towards plantation, the company should review its assurance once again and implement the plantation programme accordingly at the local level. The District Collector's Office shall carry out surprise inspections to verify the plantation work. It was further stated that plantation would help reduce crop damage and pollution, thereby minimizing adverse impacts on the lives of local residents. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds should be utilized in accordance with the demands of the local community. As per the local community's preference, the company should select and undertake appropriate action for providing at least
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to candidates from outside the area. Since the area contains forest land, the Government should not levy any additional charges while acquiring such land. The compensation rate offered by the company for Category-1 fractured land (Bhegavatdar-1) should also be extended to local farmers at the same rate. Large projects operating in the area, such as RCCPL and other industries, have not established schools similar to DAV School. Therefore, I request that schools on the lines of DAV School be established in this area. While acquiring land, the company should deal directly with the farmers, hold consultations with them, and acquire land without involving any middlemen or brokers. The road stretch from Adkoli to Ghonsa is in an extremely poor condition. The said road should be repaired, widened into a four-lane road, and provided with cement concrete paving. Similarly, the Bori-Wani road should also be widened into a four-lane road.	one of the following community facilities: a temple, a hospital, or a school.
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3) Mr. Netaji Parkhi, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	This area predominantly falls under the PESA (Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act) notified area. Therefore, the decision to give or withhold land primarily rests with the local Gram Panchayat. Whatever agreement may have been entered into between the Gram Panchayat and the company regarding the land price, or as per the demand of the Gram Panchayat, compensation should be paid accordingly. In accordance with the principle of "My Village, My Governance" under PESA, this public hearing should not have been conducted without obtaining the No Objection Certificate (NOC) of the Gram Panchayat. Compensation for land should be paid to the local landowners in	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that planning for the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Fund has been underway for the past one year. The DMF Fund is required to be utilized only within a 25-kilometre radius of the mining area. The said fund cannot be spent in Pusad, Babulgaon, or Ner. He further stated that all schools, Anganwadi centres, and healthcare facilities in the affected area should be developed. A demand had been raised for the establishment of a major school in the region, and accordingly, an inspection of a Tribal Ashram School has already been conducted. It is expected that a large school will become available in the

accordance with the resolutions passed in the Gram Sabha. M/s Nilkanth Infra Mining Ltd., Adkoli-Marki Coal Mine, has proposed to provide employment only for a period of 12 years. Since companies that have been operating for nearly eighteen years have already ceased operations, there is uncertainty as to whether this company will actually operate for the proposed 12-year period. Consequently, our agricultural livelihood will be taken away without any assurance of permanent employment. Agriculture has been the means of livelihood for our families for generations. When land is acquired by the Government, compensation is provided in accordance with the applicable Government rules. However, in this case, the company proposes to provide employment merely on a daily wage basis at the rate of Rs. 340 per day. In contrast, farmers themselves pay agricultural labourers engaged in pesticide spraying wages of Rs. 700 per day. Therefore, the question arises as to how local residents will sustain themselves after the expiry of the proposed 12-year project period. This project is likely to adversely affect our cultural and social life, traditions, and customary practices. Furthermore, a Tiger Reserve has been proposed over approximately 80 hectares of forest area in this region, but the company has not taken the proposed Tiger Reserve into consideration. In judicial proceedings, justice is delivered after hearing both parties. However, the Committee has merely clarified that the opinions of local residents will be recorded and submitted to the Government, whereas the outcome of decisions taken at the Government level is never communicated back to us. The officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should inform the public as to in how many mines within this region sedimentation tanks have actually been installed to date. Although it is stated that water is discharged into natural water sources only after treatment in	area within the next few days. After the conclusion of this public hearing, he would personally visit the site for inspection. He further stated that substantial financial assistance from the District Mineral Foundation Fund would be made available for establishing a quality educational institution. Approximately Rs. 100 crore is credited to the District Mineral Foundation Fund every year, and development works would be undertaken annually in the project-affected villages from this fund. The local residents would witness the implementation of these development initiatives over the coming years. With regard to pollution, appropriate monitoring will be carried out. He requested the local residents to place on record any suggestions or objections relating to the public hearing, to present their views briefly, and to avoid repetition of the same issues.
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sedimentation tanks, this does not happen in practice. Water flows down from the hilly areas and accumulates in the low-lying regions. Adkoli and Pavanar fall within a hilly watershed area. Therefore, mining in this region will lower the groundwater table, and over time the groundwater reserves will be depleted. The livelihood of our agriculture, which depends upon this groundwater, will consequently be severely affected. Pollution is defined as the presence of an unwanted element, at an unwanted place, at an unwanted time, or in an unwanted quantity. As transportation related to this project extends up to my village, the roads in this area have deteriorated considerably. Since the village roads have been constructed by the Zilla Parishad, their load-bearing capacity is generally limited to 18 tonnes, whereas vehicles carrying 40 to 80 tonnes frequently operate on these roads. Therefore, the load-bearing capacity of these roads should first be enhanced before mining operations are commenced. It has been stated that plantation of 7.5 lakh tree species has been proposed. However, clarification should be provided as to whether the proposal is for plantation of 7.5 lakh tree species or 7.5 lakh individual trees. It has further been stated that large canopy trees will be planted. However, the company should clarify which species of tree can develop into a large canopy tree within a period of 12 years. Such a result would only be possible if trees that are already 4–5 years old are planted. In practice, however, the company generally plants only one-year-old saplings, which often fail to survive due to pollution caused by the company's activities. The plantation should be effective in reducing wind velocity so as to mitigate the impact of pollution on local residents. The transfer of forest land shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Forest Department. While considering wind flow, compensation is paid to farmers located on one side of the project, whereas	
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farmers whose lands are adjacent to the project on the opposite side of the prevailing wind direction are not compensated. Even after prolonged hunger strikes and protests, such farmers do not receive compensation. Since the direction of the wind cannot be predicted with certainty, all companies should be directed to provide compensation to all farmers falling within the project perimeter, irrespective of wind direction. Mining activities in this region generate substantial mineral royalty for the Government. However, the benefits of these funds do not reach the local residents, despite the fact that they bear the adverse impacts of pollution. Due to pollution, our roads have deteriorated, schools have become weakened, and students are reluctant to attend school. Planning is carried out at the district level in a manner that deprives local people of their rightful benefits. Therefore, I request that the mineral royalty generated from mining activities in our area should be earmarked through a separate provision under the District Development Fund and utilized exclusively for the development of the local affected area.	
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4) Mr. Nagesh M. Dhankasar, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Kavar, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, M/s RCCPL has provided only three ceiling fans and a few chairs. Can such assistance be regarded as CSR? Similarly, no CSR funds have been provided by the concerned mine to Kumbharkhani Gram Panchayat. Kavar village falls within the influence area of that mine, yet our village has also not received any CSR support. There are several dolomite mines operating in my area, and overloaded transportation of dolomite is carried out	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issues raised during the public hearing are being duly recorded and the proceedings/minutes of the public hearing will be prepared accordingly. The responses provided by the company will also be incorporated in the said proceedings.

regularly. Consequently, stone chips and rocks are scattered near the bus stand in my village during transportation. However, the company does not clean the spilled material. I had earlier submitted representations to the Hon'ble District Collector, Yavatmal, regarding the construction of a check dam. The Hon'ble District Collector had assured that the work would commence during the summer season; however, the work has not commenced to date. The said check dam is the primary source of irrigation for approximately 600–700 farmers in the Kayar area. The check dam has remained non-functional for nearly 10–15 years, and no solution has been provided by the District Administration. Thereafter, I also submitted a representation to the Irrigation Department. The Department informed me that desilting and deepening of the check dam would be undertaken. However, no action has been taken by the Department either. Attention should be given to ensuring that CSR funds are utilized for the development of village roads, drainage systems, healthcare facilities, and the repair of schools. Local residents should be provided employment in the company, and the company should furnish a written commitment in this regard. Furthermore, local employees should be paid wages in accordance with the Government-prescribed rates. Medical examinations should also be conducted while recruiting local youth for employment. As per the Government Resolution, workers engaged in the mining sector are entitled to wages of approximately Rs. 1,200–1,300 per day; however, such wages are not being paid. In many mining industries in this area, local youth are paid only Rs. 400–500 per day. Moreover, instead of providing employment to local residents, workers from other States are being employed.	
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5) Mr. Ravindra Sudhakar Pullewar, Mukutban, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The company extracts coal from approximately one acre of land having an estimated value of Rs. 75.0 to 90.0 crore. Even low-grade coal fetches a value of approximately Rs. 65.0–70.0 crore. Therefore, if the company pays compensation to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 60.0 lakh per acre out of the value of Rs. 90.0 crore, there should be nothing objectionable in doing so. The company should accordingly pay compensation to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 60.0 lakh per acre. Farmers are providing food to the entire country. The children of project-affected farmers should also be provided employment in the company through the intervention of the Hon'ble District Collector. Even in the event of closure of the company, such persons should be retained in employment up to the age of superannuation. Preference should not be given to persons from outside the State. The company should construct a separate road for transportation of its material and vehicles so that local residents do not suffer from pollution caused by such transportation. Industries in Zari-Jamni Taluka have remained closed for the last 20–25 years. Except for the cement industry, all other industries are operational only on paper. As a result, every farmer is facing hardship and agricultural land is remaining uncultivated. In the event of any fatal accident in Zari-Jamni Taluka caused by transportation associated with the company, compensation of Rs. 70.0 lakh should be paid to the family of the deceased. The agricultural land of farmers from Adkoli village should be acquired in one consolidated manner. Initially, the company acquires the land of only one or two farmers and raises substantial loans from banks. Subsequently, the company	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that it would be appropriate to raise issues concerning the impact of the proposed project on the living conditions and quality of life of local residents. With regard to the check dam, a detailed discussion will be held after the conclusion of the public hearing. He further stated that the issues raised by local residents in relation to the project would be given due consideration. However, if issues unrelated to the project are raised, it would dilute the significance of the proceedings. The local residents were therefore requested to take note of the same.

	allegedly shows losses and gets the loans waived. The Hon'ble District Collector should obtain a written undertaking from the company that no such malpractices will be undertaken in this project. The company should disclose the correct valuation/rate of the agricultural land and pay the applicable stamp duty to the Government accordingly. In the event of any malpractice or irregularity by the company in this regard, appropriate action, including closure of the company, should be taken.	
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6) Mr. Pawan Rajendra Gokhare, Project Affected Person, Adkoli, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Local youth should be provided employment on the company's payroll in accordance with their educational qualifications. The company is expected to respond to this issue during the public hearing. As stated by the Hon'ble District Collector, the issue of the school at Junoni had been raised. Similarly, there is a school at Pavanar which has remained closed for many years. Instead of undertaking repairs to the school at Junoni, the school at Pavanar should be renovated and made functional so that local students are not required to travel to other villages for their education.	Points raised by the participant are duly noted.

7) Mrs. Mangala Rangari, Pavnar, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It is humbly requested that, since agricultural land of the farmers will be acquired for the proposed project, appropriate assistance should also be provided to the agricultural labourers who are dependent on such agricultural activities for their livelihood.	Points raised by the participant are duly noted.

8) Mr. Yashwant Balaji Gokhare, Farmer, Pavnar, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Approximately 68 hectares of land in my village remains to be acquired, while some portion of the land has already been sold, leaving approximately 25% of the total landholding. I request that the company acquire the entire remaining land of our village. After commencement of the project, pollution is likely to occur, making agricultural activities difficult. The surrounding forest area will also create difficulties in carrying out agriculture. Since our land falls under Occupancy Class-II (Bhokawatdar-II), it was stated that 10% of the compensation amount would be deducted. However, I request the administration that no amount whatsoever should be deducted from the compensation payable to us. Since Pavanar village is situated at a distance of only about 50 metres from the company/project, the residents are likely to be adversely affected by pollution. Therefore, Pavanar village should be rehabilitated/relocated. Approximately 75% of my land has already come within the mining area of the company, and I request that the remaining 25% of my land should also be acquired.	Points raised by the participant are duly noted.

9) Mr. Vinoba Krushna Kannake, Ganeshpur (Kh), Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	If one acre of my agricultural land is acquired and a quantity of soil or overburden exceeding the acquired area is deposited on the remaining agricultural land, what compensation will be provided to us for the resulting loss and damage?	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the company would carry out mining operations only within the approved mining lease area. The company shall not

Local residents should be given employment opportunities, and preference should not be given to persons from outside the State.	be permitted to dump overburden outside the mining area. He further stated that the company would be required to respond to every issue raised during the public hearing.
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10) Mrs. Nanda Dipak Gokhare, Wadgaon, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	My agricultural land bearing Survey/Gat No. 30 is situated at Pavanar, adjacent to the village pond. We are two widows, and our agricultural land has not been acquired. I request the company to consider acquiring our land. Since our children are young, it has become difficult for us to continue agricultural activities. Therefore, I request that my agricultural land be acquired.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that if any agricultural land falls within the mining lease area, it will be acquired by the company. He requested the local residents to present their views briefly and to confine their submissions to any remaining issues that had not yet been raised. He further stated that all the issues raised by the participants were being duly recorded.

11) Mr. Vijay Anandrao Pidurkar, Former Zilla Parishad Member, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I respectfully submit that an Environmental Public Hearing for the proposed Marki-Zari Jamni-Adkoli Coal Mine over an area of 353.50 hectares for coal production of 1.25 MTPA by M/s Nilkanth Infra Mining Limited, Sandhu Bhavan Road, Thaltej, Ahmedabad-380059, Gujarat, is being conducted today, 23 July 2026, under your chairmanship and organized by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The proposed coal mining project is likely to result in increasing pollution, environmental degradation, reduction in agricultural productivity, loss of livelihood for landless agricultural labourers, and adverse impacts on water, air, and other environmental resources. In	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issue raised by the participant has been duly recorded.

a public hearing conducted under the applicable laws and regulations, the public should receive accurate information, and objections raised by the affected people should be considered in accordance with the principles of natural justice. If any information furnished by the company is found to be false or misleading, with supporting evidence, the information presented during the public hearing should be corrected so that the interests of mine-affected and project-affected persons are protected. The issues raised herein are based on the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Hazardous Waste Rules, 1989, the EIA Notifications, 2006 and 2009, and other applicable Central and State laws. I therefore request that justice be ensured in a practical, lawful, and community-centric manner.

Specific Issues Raised

1. Employment for Project-Affected Persons

The project involves acquisition of 353.50 hectares of land. The company should disclose the number of permanent employment opportunities that will be provided to local project-affected persons in various categories such as Manager, Accounts, Supervisor, Personnel Management, Social Welfare (CSR/CSI), and other posts according to educational qualifications.

2. Gender Equality in Employment

In accordance with the law relating to gender equality, the company should disclose the categories of employment and the proportion of jobs proposed to be provided to both young men and women.

3. Employment for Landless Agricultural Labourers

The company should explain what measures have been proposed to provide permanent employment to landless

agricultural labourers and traditional village service providers (Bara Balutedars) who presently depend upon the acquired 353.50 hectares for their livelihood. 4. Responsibility of Company Officials It should be clarified whether the General Manager and other responsible officers of M/s Nilkanth Infra Mining Limited are present at the public hearing and whether they have adequately considered employment, biodiversity, and the social and economic impacts while planning the investment. 5. Reserved Forest and Plantation The project includes approximately 2.6 hectares of Reserved Forest. The company should clarify whether a survey has been conducted of valuable medicinal plants and existing tree species within the area and provide details of the species recorded. It should also specify the number of compensatory trees proposed to be planted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. 6. CSR and Environmental Expenditure The project cost is stated to be Rs. 624.70 crore. The company should clarify whether the proposed allocation of 1% towards CSR and 0.50% towards social and environmental responsibility complies with the applicable legal provisions. 7. Coal Production and Financial Information The company proposes annual coal production of 12.50 lakh tonnes. It should disclose the estimated annual market value of such production, expected annual turnover, expenditure, and net profit. 8. Coal Transportation The company should disclose the proposed transportation route from the	
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	mine to the railway siding, the number of trucks proposed per day, the carrying capacity of each vehicle, and the load-bearing capacity of the roads proposed to be used. 9. Dolomite and Limestone Deposits Dolomite and limestone deposits are available in the upper portion of the mining area. The company should clarify how these minerals will be managed and whether royalty will be paid for their extraction. 10. Employment After Closure of the Mine Since the proposed mine has a life of only 12 years, the company should explain how permanent employment or livelihood support will be ensured for farmers and agricultural labourers who have depended upon agriculture for generations after closure of the mine. The company has provided a 12-year mining schedule but has not furnished details regarding compensation and rehabilitation arrangements during the initial five-year period, which should also be disclosed. 11. Land Acquisition under PESA The company should explain under which law and through what procedure land will be acquired, particularly in villages covered under the PESA Act, including the methodology for determining compensation. For example, during land acquisition for the Ambuja Cement Nandgaon-Ekodi Mine Project in Chandrapur District, the Ready Reckoner Rate was Rs. 2.88 lakh, while the market rate was Rs. 30 lakh, and after applying a multiplier factor of 1.2, compensation of Rs. 72 lakh was paid. Since the Ready Reckoner Rate in this area is approximately Rs. 6.51 lakh, compensation exceeding Rs. 1.5 crore per acre should be considered.	
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12. Wildlife Movement The company should explain the measures proposed to protect wildlife movement corridors and the food chain of important species such as deer, wolf, sarus crane, fox, sambar, jungle cat, rabbit, mongoose, tiger, and leopard. 13. Community Forest Rights and Traditional Forest Dwellers The company should explain how it proposes to protect livelihood resources available in the buffer zone, including species such as Khair, Bel, Siris, Sisam, Tendu, Behada, Umbar, Shevga, and Sindi, which support Community Forest Rights holders and traditional forest dwellers. The company should also disclose: • The total number of trees on Forest Development Corporation land, • The ratio of compensatory plantation proposed, • Whether employment opportunities will be provided to tribal communities and traditional forest dwellers, and • The compensation mechanism applicable where Community Forest Rights titles have been granted. 14. Compensation for Transportation-Related Damage The company should explain how coal will be transported to the railway siding and how compensation will be provided if roadside agricultural land suffers damage due to dust or transportation-related pollution, particularly since no such provision appears to have been made under CER. 15. Socio-Economic Survey The socio-economic survey includes ITI-qualified and graduate youth but excludes engineers, doctors, nursing graduates, and other qualified youth residing in the area. There are several engineers, B.A., and M.A. graduates in the project area. This indicates that the survey data is	
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inaccurate. If information has been concealed or false information has been submitted in violation of the EIA Notifications, 2006 and 2009, the Hon'ble Chairman should direct the project proponent to furnish complete and accurate information regarding the project and its surrounding area.

General Submissions:-

More than 60% of the fertile agricultural land in mineral-rich villages of Zari Taluka is proposed to be acquired. The primary livelihood of farmers, landless labourers, and traditional service communities depends upon this land. Therefore, permanent livelihood security should be ensured in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The company should also clarify how employment will be sustained after expiry of the 12-year mine life and how livelihoods presently dependent upon forest resources will be protected. The EIA Report does not explain whether compensatory plantations will become productive within 12 years, whether they will provide fruits, or whether traditional activities such as honey collection can continue. We do not oppose the project. However, the company must ensure that rehabilitation and livelihood security of local residents remain protected in accordance with the Constitution of India and that the provisions of the PESA Act are fully complied with. Compensation under PESA should be provided in a manner comparable to compensation under the Land Acquisition Act. The company has also failed to explain how roads and natural drains will be diverted during implementation of the project. Such diversion may create future flooding conditions. There appears to be a significant discrepancy between the maps presented by the local authorities and those submitted by the project proponent. The proposed diversion of natural drains for industrial purposes may cause soil erosion and land subsidence, resulting in

	damage to adjoining agricultural land. The company should therefore clarify whether compensation will be paid for such damage. These issues indicate that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report contains deficiencies and inaccuracies. Appropriate revisions should be made, including reassessment of land compensation under the Land Acquisition Act and the PESA Act. Finally, while we do not oppose the project itself, we submit that the company has furnished misleading information that has the effect of misleading both local residents and the administration, thereby defeating the principles of natural justice. Such inaccurate information is likely to result in exploitation of local people. Therefore, I respectfully request the Hon'ble Chairman to direct the company to rectify the deficiencies and inaccuracies in its Environmental Impact Assessment Report before the project proceeds further.	
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12) Mr. Ashish Anandrao Fulsange, Former Zilla Parishad Member, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Many people have already expressed their grievances during the public hearing for M/s Nilkanth Infra Mining Company. Local residents have voiced their concerns regarding land compensation and the future environmental impacts of the proposed project. I would like to submit before the officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board that M/s B.S. Ispat Ltd. and M/s Topworth Urja & Metals Ltd. are two coal mining projects operating in Zari-Jamni Taluka. During its presentation, the company has explained its policy regarding land acquisition and environmental safeguards. The present project proposes to acquire 271 hectares of private land in a phased manner, while 68 hectares of land are proposed to remain	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issue raised by the participant has been duly recorded.

outside the project area. One of the persons present here has only one acre of land proposed for acquisition, while no policy has been explained regarding the remaining 1.5 acres of his land. The company should clarify what such a farmer is expected to do in such circumstances. Experience shows that after mining operations commence, the company does not adequately address the grievances of local residents. Except for Government officials, local people are generally not permitted to enter the company premises. Earlier, when we protested against the Ispat Company, criminal cases were registered against us. Pollution from the Ispat Company's coal mine affects Mukutban, Ruikot, and Bhendala villages, yet the company has not implemented adequate pollution control measures in these villages. The officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board have also not inspected the Ispat Company's coal mine to date. Similarly, the Board officials have not visited the Topworth, RCCPL, and the limestone mines and lime kiln projects operating at Ganeshpur. Several complaints submitted by us to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board have also remained unanswered. The purpose of this environmental public hearing is to inform local people about the pollution control measures proposed for the upcoming project. However, why is no information being provided regarding the environmental measures actually implemented by the existing mining projects? The Board officials are reportedly unaware that the Ispat Company's mine located between Mukutban and Chani has remained closed. Likewise, despite repeated complaints submitted by the Gram Panchayat regarding severe pollution caused by industries operating at Ganeshpur, no response has been received. No decision regarding land compensation is taken during this public hearing. The company should disclose	
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how many tonnes of coal are proposed to be extracted per hectare. The coal available in this area is Grade G-8 coal, which commands one of the highest market prices. Although several lakh tonnes of coal are extracted from each hectare, local landowners receive compensation ranging from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh per acre. Even today, land acquisition in the Ispat project remains incomplete. The company should acquire land in one consolidated manner, and an appropriate resolution should be passed accordingly. The company's administration misleads local people. Even today, local residents continue to make repeated visits to the offices of Topworth and Ispat for land acquisition matters, but their lands have still not been acquired. The present project proposes to generate approximately 500–550 employment opportunities. About 80–90 families are expected to lose their land, while many others are landless agricultural labourers. What will happen to the agricultural labourers dependent upon the 271 hectares of land? How will they sustain their livelihood? The company proposes to pay only Rs. 500 per day as wages. Instead, local workers should be paid daily wages of Rs. 1,250, similar to those paid by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL). It has been stated that highly skilled workers may receive approximately Rs. 3,200 per day. The company should clarify whether local workers will actually receive higher wages. There are only 100–150 persons belonging to the approximately 80 affected families. Therefore, from where will the remaining 350–400 workers be recruited? The company should clarify this aspect. The company is also not complying with the Maharashtra Government's requirement of providing 80% employment to local residents. This practice is prevalent across industries in this area, and there is a genuine apprehension that the same will continue in this project. Although companies	
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promise healthcare facilities, such commitments generally remain confined to paper and are not implemented in practice. Under CSR activities, companies merely distribute chairs and fans. Not a single industry in the area has provided an ambulance facility for the surrounding villages, and no action has been taken by the administration in this regard. The company has also furnished false information by claiming that no wildlife exists in the area. In reality, tigers are present in this region. The company merely gives assurances without implementing them. In one instance, a person died in an accident, but the company initially attempted to avoid responsibility by claiming that the death had not occurred within its premises. Only after public agitation was action taken, and compensation was eventually paid to the deceased person's family. Local people are also threatened with criminal cases in an attempt to suppress such matters. Representations have been submitted to the Hon'ble Police Inspector requesting diversion of company traffic through Mukutban on market days. However, transportation is not carried out according to the prescribed timings. The road constructed up to Wani has deteriorated severely due to heavy transportation. Whenever these issues are raised, no satisfactory replies are received. I therefore intend to meet Hon'ble Ms. Pankaja Munde, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, regarding the continued neglect by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board towards industries operating in Zari-Jamni Taluka. The health of local residents has deteriorated, and agriculture has also been adversely affected. Approximately 10–15 acres of agricultural land adjoining every industrial project has been damaged due to pollution. The company should also acquire the remaining 68 hectares of land. Separate public hearing proceedings should be conducted covering both the

271-hectare and 68-hectare areas. The company has proposed plantation of 7.5 lakh trees, but it has not specified the location where these trees will be planted. To date, not a single mine in this area has undertaken plantation on the promised scale. Since the company has the right to sell coal in the open market and is likely to earn substantial profits, there is no justification for offering lower compensation for land. The company has failed to provide basic community facilities. Even RCCPL has not provided an ambulance service. Forest Department land is proposed to be acquired under this project, and the company should clarify where compensatory land will be provided. It has been reported that the company has purchased land in Raigad and Ratnagiri districts. Instead of purchasing land there, it should purchase land from farmers in Zari-Jamni Taluka and develop forests within the same taluka. Wani Taluka does not even have a Sub-District Hospital. The Primary Health Centre at Mukutban contains expired medicines, and doctors are frequently unavailable at health centres. The residents of Zari-Jamni Taluka continue to suffer because of these deficiencies. The road at Chilai is also in a deteriorated condition, and the company has not disclosed the route proposed for transportation. Even the Rural Hospital at Zari-Jamni lacks drinking water facilities, and during the summer season even coolers were not provided. Finally, I appeal to the farmers not to be misled by false assurances. Land should be sold only if the company acquires all the affected land in a consolidated manner; otherwise, farmers should not part with their land for the project.	
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13) Mr. Nitesh Wamanrao Lengure, Project Affected Farmer, Adkoli Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	In Adkoli and Pavanar villages, approximately 68 hectares of land have not been acquired uniformly. In some cases, only one acre of a farmer's land has been acquired, while in other cases 1.5 acres have been acquired, leaving a portion of the landholding unacquired. This gives rise to an apprehension that the company is acting with an improper intent. The company should also explain the reason why such land has been left out of acquisition. The cotton yield from our agricultural land does not exceed 6-7 quintals. Therefore, the issue of pollution is of utmost importance. During the last 3-4 years, Gram Sabha meetings have been conducted. During those meetings, it was stated that further proceedings could not be undertaken because the land falls under Occupancy Class-II (Bhokawatdar-II). However, while the company has completed its own procedural formalities, it appears to have sidelined the local farmers. The company did not place complete and accurate information before the Gram Sabha, and no information regarding the proposed land compensation rates was disclosed. Once nearly 90% of the land in the area is acquired, no one will be able to continue residing in the village. We will be compelled to purchase land elsewhere and construct new houses. The loss of our land means that our entire livelihood and future are at stake. Therefore, the future of local residents should not be left uncertain. The company is aware that farmers cannot sustain prolonged litigation because the judicial process moves slowly. Gram Sabha meetings have been held for the last two years, yet no decision has been taken regarding the land compensation rates. Moreover, no information has been	The Hon'ble Sub-Divisional Officer, Zari-Jamni, District Yavatmal, stated that the participants were requested not to raise the same issue repeatedly. He further stated that the company would respond to all the issues raised during the public hearing.

	provided regarding the manner in which the land transactions will be carried out. Initially, it was stated that a uniform compensation rate would be fixed for all landowners and that compensation would be paid accordingly. Subsequently, it was stated that negotiations would be undertaken. However, the exact nature and procedure of such negotiations have not been explained. Furthermore, we have not even been provided with copies of the relevant notifications. There is a widespread discussion among local residents that the owners of the company intend to negotiate separately with each landowner and purchase each parcel of land at different rates. Therefore, the company should submit copies of every proposal prepared by it to the Gram Panchayat and ensure that such information is made available to all villagers. We demand that the company should hold discussions with the villagers during the Gram Sabha and determine a uniform compensation rate applicable to all landowners. It is also being discussed that, after conducting individual negotiations with landowners, they are being instructed not to disclose the amount of compensation received to other villagers. We therefore demand that the company should undertake the land acquisition through a single consolidated transaction, and that the compensation rates paid to all landowners should be made public.	
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14) Mr. Vasudev Laxman Vidhate, Marki (Bu.) Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It is the desire of everyone that the country should progress. Although India has completed 75 years of Independence, the fundamental question remains whether the farmers of this country have truly become free. In my view, this question still remains unanswered, and the farmer	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issue raised by the participant has been duly recorded.

has yet to attain real independence. We acknowledge that the country's development requires energy, and we also recognize that projects such as this may be necessary to meet that requirement. This understanding exists among farmers and social activists alike. However, my allegation is that while such projects are being established in the name of development, the farmers themselves are being sacrificed beneath these projects. If one visits Jharkhand and other mining regions, the same situation can be observed. We have been struggling on this issue for the past 25–30 years. The Government should explain what tangible benefits the existing coal mining projects in this area have actually provided to the farmers. There are four projects in the Marki-Mangli Coal Block area. Earlier, a public hearing for the M/s Yazdani project was also conducted. On that occasion, I had raised the issue that, after completion of the Environmental Public Hearing, neither the company nor the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board supplies copies of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report to any Gram Panchayat or farmer in the affected area. At the previous hearing, an assurance was given that copies of the Final EIA Report would be provided. However, this has not happened. The same issue was raised during the previous public hearing as well. Just as copies of the Draft EIA Report are supplied to Gram Panchayats before the public hearing, copies of the Final EIA Report should also be supplied afterwards. We object that this responsibility lies with the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, but the Board has failed to discharge it. We therefore expect that the Final EIA Report for this project will be made available to all 17–18 Gram Panchayats in the affected area. Within a 10-kilometre radius of the project area lie the Marki-Mangli Coal Blocks and the RCCPL project. The buffer zones of these five projects overlap. Therefore, instead of conducting separate

public hearings for each project, a cumulative environmental impact assessment covering all projects within the 10-kilometre area should be prepared, followed by a consolidated public hearing and integrated environmental clearance. The compensation for land under this project should be determined in accordance with the demands of the local farmers, and fair compensation must be paid. The Zari-Jamni area substantially falls within Scheduled Areas under Article 244 and the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, where a large number of tribal agricultural labourers depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. No satisfactory explanation has been given regarding the measures proposed for these labourers. Agricultural labourers from Adkoli and Pavanar may presently seek employment in places such as Zari-Jamni and Marki, but agricultural activities in those areas are also being adversely affected by coal mining. The tribal labourers of this region have no alternative source of income. Furthermore, tribal communities have been granted rights under the Forest Rights Act and the PESA Act. It should therefore be examined whether these rights are being violated by the project proponent. However, neither this project nor other projects in the area contain any meaningful planning or provisions for protecting such rights. For the last 20 years, we have experienced the same injustice. During public hearings, assurances are repeatedly given, yet our experience over the past two decades is that even at the offices of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, local residents are not treated with due respect. The Hon'ble District Collector has informed us that the Government is formulating a policy for compensating farmers whose agricultural lands adjoining mining areas suffer crop losses due to mining-related pollution, and that the Hon'ble Chief Secretary of Maharashtra has recently visited the area for this purpose. Similar	
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efforts should also be extended to other affected persons. Under the PESA Act, there are legal restrictions on transferring tribal land in the name of non-tribals. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the project proponent should explain what planning or safeguards have been made in this regard. The EIA Report classifies the land into forest land, tribal land, private land, FDCM (Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra) land, and Government land. However, private land should also have been further classified, including the extent of privately owned land held by different social categories. Such classification would help ensure that the constitutional rights of tribal communities are not violated. I therefore demand that such classification be incorporated so that the rights guaranteed under the PESA Act are adequately protected. Under the PESA Act, prior consent of the Gram Panchayats in Scheduled Areas is essential before establishing such a project. I allege that the consent of the Gram Panchayats has been obtained on the basis of false representations and misleading information. I further object that such consent has been obtained by exercising pressure upon the Gram Panchayats. I therefore demand that the matter be investigated, and that fresh Gram Sabha meetings be conducted without any coercion or pressure. These Gram Panchayats fall within the Fifth Schedule, and their decisions are of paramount importance. No legal process should undermine the decisions of Gram Panchayats in Scheduled Areas. If consent has indeed been obtained through misleading information, it would amount to a violation of constitutional provisions and should be investigated. The resolutions of the Gram Sabha should contain details of the discussions that actually took place. Since such details are absent from the resolutions, it cannot be ruled out that irregularities may have occurred while obtaining their approval.	
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We have received no satisfactory response from either the administration or the Gram Panchayats regarding whether such an inquiry will be conducted. Since tribal land is proposed to be acquired under this project, it should be clarified whether any claims under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 remain pending, and what action has been or will be taken regarding such pending claims. For many years, this region has been known to have the presence of tigers, and it forms part of a recognized tiger movement corridor extending from Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary through Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telangana to the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and the Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, thereby connecting these protected areas. The tiger has been declared an Endangered species under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, the project proponent has not explained what measures will be adopted for the protection of tigers, nor has it clarified where the wildlife of this region is expected to move after commencement of the project. The EIA Report itself states that: "There is a tiger movement in this area, not only in this project area but also in the entire Zarijamni." Despite this, 472 hectares of forest land were allotted to the RCCPL mining project, and mining operations have commenced. The State Wildlife Committee inspected that project twice and reportedly recommended that the said 472 hectares of forest land should not be diverted for the project. Nevertheless, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, as Chairman of the State Wildlife Board, approved the diversion. During the previous public hearing, detailed information was submitted regarding livestock killings, human-wildlife conflict incidents, and compensation paid between 2011 and 2023, including names and cheque numbers. However, no information has	
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	been provided regarding the action taken on those submissions. The Forest Department has also not explained how such a scarce tiger population can be conserved or rehabilitated, nor how the tiger corridor would function if its movement pattern changes. Farmers receive compensation when wild boars damage crops. Similarly, compensation of approximately Rs. 25 lakh is payable in case of death due to a bear attack, Rs. 5 lakh for permanent disability, and up to Rs. 50,000 for minor injuries. However, such hardships continue to be borne primarily by farmers. Therefore, I reiterate my demand that the company must provide appropriate compensation to the affected farmers. The company has submitted a Mine Closure Plan. However, we should be informed as to which Government department will take over the land after closure of the mine. Finally, the company should clarify whether it is willing to provide legally enforceable commitments regarding employment for local residents. At present, local people are initially employed but are subsequently removed from service after a short period. Therefore, the company should clearly state whether it will provide a legally binding commitment guaranteeing employment security for local residents.	
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15) Mr. Samir Chandrashekhar Lengure, Adkoli, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It has been 79 years since India attained Independence, and in the coming days the country will celebrate its 80th Independence Day. However, even after 80 years, residents are required to submit numerous representations merely to secure a halt for the State Transport (ST) bus operating between Zari-Jamni and Wani at Pavanar. Despite submitting around 100 representations, the	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issue raised by the participant has been duly recorded.

administration has continued to neglect this issue. As a result, local residents are compelled to travel approximately 3 kilometres to reach the nearest bus stop. This project brings both hope and hardship to the local people, but the hardship is far greater, and the Government bears responsibility for this situation. Our entire livelihood depends upon agriculture. Cotton and soybean are the principal crops cultivated in this region. Once agricultural land is acquired, serious concerns arise regarding the livelihood of the affected farmers. In a neighboring company, a large number of local people were initially employed, but they were subsequently removed from service because they had been engaged through contractors. Contractors generally do not pay workers the Government-prescribed minimum wages. Furthermore, whenever local workers seek wage revisions, they are compelled to accept transfers through the same contractors to other locations. The security guards employed at M/s RCCPL are required to work 12-hour shifts, whereas, as per the applicable norms, duty hours should be limited to 8 hours in three shifts. Discussions with the supervisors also indicated that these provisions are not being properly implemented. The company should clearly explain the provisions it proposes to make regarding employment and the measures that will actually be implemented in this regard. The company should also explain what measures will be taken to address the hardships that local residents are likely to face after acquisition of their village lands. The conditions stipulated in the various No Objection Certificates (NOCs) issued to companies are not being complied with, and the administration also fails to ensure their enforcement. It is alleged that whenever an individual persistently pursues a grievance, the company settles the matter privately with that person in order to silence the issue. No response has been received from the	
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	District Collector's Office regarding M/s B.S. Ispat Company to date. I therefore demand that this project should be implemented only with strict compliance with all applicable Government rules and regulations. Representatives of the company should visit the villages only during official working hours, and information regarding such visits should be communicated to all villagers in advance. Considering the prevailing market value of land, the farmers of this area should be paid compensation at a minimum rate of Rs. 60.0 lakh per acre.	
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16) Mr. Ajay Pandurang Dhobe, Corporator, Ward No.1, Municipal Council Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I am a resident of Maregaon village, where a similar public hearing was conducted in 2012. At that time, several farmers who owned 7–20 acres of land have now been left with only 2–2.5 acres, while the proposed project has not materialized. Therefore, I wish to advise the farmers of this area that project-affected farmers should not become entirely dependent upon promises associated with the project. I am an elected Councilor of the Municipal Council, and my ward is also affected by coal-related activities. Coal from this region is transported to Wani for loading and unloading, and the wards of the Wani Municipal Council are adversely affected by coal pollution. I am personally aware of the extent of pollution prevailing in the area. I had earlier brought this issue to the notice of the Hon'ble District Collector during the visit of the Hon'ble Principal Secretary. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for this project states that coal extracted from the Marki-Zari Jamni-Adkoli Coal Mine will be transported to the nearest Kayar Railway Siding, located at a distance of	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issue raised by the participant has been duly recorded.

approximately 19.30 kilometres. However, the report does not specify the exact transportation route that will be used. It also fails to disclose the load-bearing capacity of the roads proposed for coal transportation. It has been stated that the project will operate for a period of 12 years. However, no information has been provided regarding how local youth—for example, those who are presently 30 years of age—will sustain their livelihood after the expiry of the project's life. The project proposes an allocation of approximately Rs. 9.0 crore under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER). The company should clarify whether it will furnish a Bank Guarantee of the said amount to the concerned Gram Panchayats as an assurance for implementing these commitments. The report further states that provisions have been made for treatment of mine discharge water, adoption of controlled blasting techniques to reduce vibration and noise, and regular environmental monitoring to ensure compliance with regulatory standards. Coal mining has been taking place in the Wani region since 1906. Therefore, it is entirely appropriate to raise these concerns based on long-standing experience. The company has proposed plantation of 2,500 trees per hectare. It has further stated that, as per the advice of the Forest Department, approximately 766,845 trees, including fruit-bearing and native species, will be planted. However, the company has not specified the area where these plantations will actually be undertaken. During correspondence regarding the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) railway siding, WCL claimed to have planted 11,087 trees. However, upon inspection, not a single tree was found to have survived. In the present project, plantation is proposed over an area of 13 hectares. However, if 766,845 trees are divided over 13 hectares, the density would work out to approximately 58,988 trees per hectare,	
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	which appears inconsistent with the stated plantation norm of 2,500 trees per hectare. The company should therefore explain the basis on which these plantation figures have been calculated. The report also states that the cost of coal production is lower than the prevailing market price, thereby benefiting electricity consumers. We have been raising concerns about the adverse impacts of coal mining for the past 120 years, and the company should explain what actual benefits electricity consumers and the local communities have received. Local residents have been demanding for many years that electricity tariffs should be reduced in coal-affected areas. I have already submitted detailed representations on these and several other issues to the Hon'ble District Collector and the Project Proponent. I request that these representations be duly considered and that satisfactory replies be provided. I further request that written replies be furnished and that all applicable legal requirements be fully complied with before granting approval to the proposed project.	
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17) Mr. V. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Hyderabad:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Due to paucity of time, I am submitting my written representation for consideration.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issue raised by the participant has been duly recorded.

18) Mr. Rahul Sunil Pawade, Mohda, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	My village is well known for stone crusher operations, and a large number of stone crushers are operating in the area. I am a project-affected farmer. A stone	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the matter would be duly examined

crusher has been operating adjacent to my village since 2008, and I have not sold my agricultural land to date. I had raised objections regarding the stone crusher, following which a site inspection was conducted by the Patwari. The transportation of M/s Balaji Associates, Mohada is carried out through the same road, causing considerable hardship to us. When my parents raised their voice against the project, they were allegedly subjected to unnecessary harassment by the police administration. There are a total of three stone crusher units adjacent to my agricultural land, and transportation takes place on both sides of my field. Due to pollution caused by the stone crushers, my parents have developed health-related problems. We are subjected to harassment despite having lodged no complaint with the police administration. The stone crusher operations have also caused cracks in our house. This proposed project is likely to result in significant pollution. I therefore appeal to the local farmers not to permit acquisition of their land unless they receive compensation at a minimum rate of Rs. 1.0 crore per acre.	through an appropriate inquiry. He further requested the participant to confine his submissions to issues relating to the proposed project, and stated that matters unrelated to the project would be discussed separately in detail.
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19) Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee & District Collector, Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, directed the Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, to conduct periodic inspections of the industries operating in the Wani region and to ensure timely redressal of pollution-related complaints. He further directed that the local Sub-Divisional Office and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should work in coordination to identify measures for reducing pollution in Wani Taluka as well as other talukas of Yavatmal District. For this purpose, one day every week should be earmarked for hearing and resolving the complaints and grievances of local residents. The company administration was requested to present its views on issues beyond the scope of its presentation, wherever appropriate. He further directed that the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of the project should be made available by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to the concerned Gram Panchayats within the next 15 days.

20) Answers given by Environment Consultant on behalf of Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Plantation of 750,000 trees has been proposed in a phased manner over an area of 300 hectares. The project report also includes a proposal for backfilling and reclamation of the mined-out area. The issue of soil erosion, which was raised during the public hearing, has also been addressed in the report. The project envisages transportation by 189 vehicles per day, and the necessary transportation planning has been incorporated into the project. Since limestone and dolomite are not present within the project area, the issue relating to those minerals does not arise. A detailed study has been undertaken regarding tiger movement and wildlife conservation. The Forest Department had provided a list of 24 species falling under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, while the Wildlife Conservation Plan has incorporated 27 Schedule-I species. A provision of Rs. 2.0 crore has been made for implementation of the Wildlife Conservation Plan, and the said plan has been submitted for approval. Upon receipt of the requisite approval, it will be incorporated into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. Tiger movement has been recorded within the 10-kilometre study area, and the mitigation measures proposed in this regard are detailed in Chapter 4 of the report. The report also contains details relating to Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) and the proposed Wildlife Conservation Plan.

21) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I wish to assure the gathering that, over the next three years, M/s Nilkanth Infra will implement pollution control measures, mining operations, coal extraction practices, and transportation management in such an effective manner that this project will serve as a model for future industries. I further assure that no middleman or intermediary will be engaged by the company during the process of land acquisition. In accordance with the prescribed norm of 2,500 trees per hectare, the company will demonstrate how plantation will be undertaken under this project. We are committed to carrying out the plantation programme in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Forest laws. The development of the villages in this area is essential. Accordingly, with the concurrence of the public representatives and in consultation with the Government, we undertake to establish a Primary Health Centre in this area. Further, if the Government has any scheme for the renovation and upgradation of the existing healthcare centres in the area, we shall actively cooperate with all industries in supporting such initiatives. Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, efforts will be made to provide an ambulance facility for the villages of Adkoli, Marki, and Pavanar in Zari Taluka before the Ganesh Festival. I welcome all the issues raised during this public hearing and further assure that the final report relating to the public hearing will be submitted to all the concerned Gram Panchayats within the next seven days.

22) Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee & District Collector, Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the Project Proponent had assured compliance with several of the issues raised during the public hearing. However, the company should exercise due diligence to ensure that no middlemen or brokers are involved in the land acquisition process. If the involvement of any broker is found, appropriate action will be initiated against the company by the administration. He further directed the company to provide a detailed explanation of the proposed land acquisition process, including the manner in which land purchases will be carried out. With regard to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), while certain commitments have been indicated, the company should also furnish details of any additional initiatives proposed to be undertaken in the future. The company should also provide specific information regarding the employment opportunities proposed under the project. Regarding compensation for losses, he reiterated that, as stated earlier, a committee has already been constituted at the Government level to examine the matter, and the work of the said committee is presently in progress.

23) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	M/s Nilkanth Infra is firmly committed to ensuring that no land is purchased through brokers or middlemen during the land acquisition process. The experiences that local residents may have had with other projects should not be associated with this project. Had the company intended to purchase land through brokers, its representatives or intermediaries would have approached the farmers by now. However, no such instance has occurred. The company assures that direct negotiations will be undertaken with the landowners while determining compensation for land acquisition. The provisions relating to land acquisition and compensation contained in Sections 26 to 30 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLARR Act) will be complied with in letter and spirit. Further, in accordance with the amendments introduced by the Government of Maharashtra in 2018, where land is acquired through direct negotiations, a provision exists for offering compensation at a rate 25% higher than the negotiated base rate. The company assures that transparency and rationalization will be maintained while determining compensation for agricultural land. The company further clarifies that no proposal will be finalized solely at my instance or at the discretion of M/s Nilkanth Infra. All proposals will be considered by the Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble District Collector, and compensation will be paid in accordance with the valuation determined under the provisions of the RFCTLARR Act. With regard to employment, 80% preference will be given to local residents in accordance with the Government Resolution issued by the Government of Maharashtra. Persons from outside the State will not be given preference in employment. A query was raised regarding how 570 employment opportunities would be generated under the project. The company clarifies that no contractor will be allotted land for coal mining operations. Agricultural labourers will be provided indirect employment, and priority

	in such indirect employment opportunities will be given to local agricultural labourers. With regard to Forest Rights, action will be taken in accordance with the decisions of the Government. Further, as per the Mining Guidelines, 2025, the company has been allotted only the land containing coal deposits. If any additional land is allotted by the Government in the future, the company will take appropriate action in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. The company further clarifies that no proposal has been prepared by it with respect to the remaining land outside the presently proposed acquisition area.
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24) Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee & District Collector, Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The Project Proponent shall take appropriate action on all issues relating to the proposed project. The issues pertaining to the Government have also been duly recorded and shall be incorporated in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for submission to the Government, whereupon an appropriate decision shall be taken by the competent authorities. The issues recorded include, inter alia, land acquisition, rehabilitation of villages, diversion of roads, acquisition of forest land, grant of forest rights/pattas, and other related matters. Employment, plantation, and environmental protection measures are among the important issues raised during the public hearing. The local residents have placed approximately 70–80 issues on record. The Committee responsible for granting Environmental Clearance will examine both the issues relating to the Project Proponent and those concerning the administration, and appropriate decisions will be taken thereon. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Project Proponent shall take suitable action to communicate and follow up on such matters. The public hearing also enables the administration to become aware of issues falling within its jurisdiction. The local administration shall continue to monitor matters relating to land acquisition. It is necessary to focus on improving educational and healthcare facilities in the project-affected area. Improvements in these sectors will be pursued in the future, and positive outcomes are expected. After the conclusion of the public hearing, discussions will be held on other related matters, which will also facilitate the local administration in effectively implementing various Government schemes in the affected area.

25) An unknown person, Adkoli, Tal. Zarijamani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	If, out of my total 5 acres of land, 1.5 acres is not acquired, what decision will the Government take in respect of the remaining land?	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the issue raised by the participant has been duly recorded. He further stated that neither the company administration nor the district administration has the authority to take a decision on the said

		matter. If the mining area is subsequently expanded in favour of the company, the corresponding proposal will be submitted to the Government for consideration, and an appropriate decision will be taken by the competent authority. He further clarified that if the company dumps overburden outside the approved mining area, substantial penal action will be imposed against the company.
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26) Mr. Vijay Anandrao Pidurkar, Former Zilla Parishad Member, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It has been stated that employment will be generated for 2,500 persons. However, no information has been provided regarding the number of posts proposed under different categories such as Manager, Accounts, Supervisor, Personnel Management, Social Welfare (CSR/CSI), and other positions according to educational qualifications. The project proposes 557 jobs, but the company has not disclosed the number of vacancies under each category. This should be clarified. The affected population includes Bara Balutedars (traditional village service providers) and landless agricultural labourers. The company proposes to provide 557 jobs for a project spread over approximately 650 acres. However, no explanation has been provided regarding the nature of employment that will be offered to landless agricultural labourers. In practice, indirect employment does not provide any meaningful livelihood security. After providing 557 jobs, nearly 2,500 people will still remain unemployed. This would adversely affect their livelihood and would be contrary to the spirit of the safeguards provided for Scheduled Areas under the PESA Act. The company should therefore explain what measures it proposes to adopt in this	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the company is hereby advised to give preference to local residents for employment wherever they possess the requisite skills, qualifications, or educational credentials for the available positions. He further stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to ensure that all the issues raised during the proceedings are duly recorded in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. If any new concerns or suggestions emerge during the public hearing, the company should appropriately acknowledge them and make suitable commitments wherever necessary. He observed that the company has already given assurances on several important issues. The objective is to foster cordial relations between the local community and the Project Proponent so that the project can be implemented with the cooperation of the affected people. With regard to employment, he stated that the Government would take an appropriate decision in accordance with the applicable provisions. Regarding land compensation, information would be obtained about the compensation rates adopted in other locations; however, the

regard. The proposed mine will operate for 12 years, followed by 5 years of mine backfilling and reclamation. However, the crucial question remains as to how local youth will sustain themselves after the expiry of the 12-year mine life. In 2021, M/s Manikgarh Company determined compensation under the RFCTLARR Act on the basis of a Ready Reckoner Rate of Rs. 72,000, whereas the prevailing land value at that location was approximately Rs. 2,88,000. At present, the Ready Reckoner Rate in this area is approximately Rs. 6,51,000. Therefore, the company should clarify what compensation will actually be payable for land in Zari-Jamni and Adkoli—whether it will be approximately Rs. 1.5 crore, Rs. 2.0 crore, or Rs. 5.0 crore. During the negotiation process, local residents are entitled to protection under the principles of natural justice. Once a compensation rate is determined, it will enable local residents to make informed decisions. I have participated in 32 public hearings to date. On every occasion when I have raised objections, I have consistently maintained that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report must contain truthful and accurate information in accordance with the EIA Notifications, 2006 and 2009. The company has entrusted M/s Srishti Seva with the preparation of the EIA Report. Such a report is expected to contain accurate information regarding the geographical conditions, biodiversity, forest resources, and mineral resources of the project area. If false information has been submitted, it would amount to a violation of the EIA Notification, and local residents have every right to object to such inaccuracies. On an earlier occasion, we succeeded in having one public hearing cancelled, and we extended support to that project only after employment appointment letters had been issued. The company has not disclosed the total number of existing trees in the project area, nor has it specified the extent of compensatory plantation proposed in	company cannot be compelled to adopt the same rates. Nevertheless, efforts would be made to ensure that local farmers receive higher and fair compensation. He further explained that an Environmental Impact Assessment is a study of the likely impacts of the project on the environment. Therefore, no issue raised during the public hearing should remain unaddressed. If any aspect has been omitted from the draft report prepared by the Project Proponent, it should be discussed during the public hearing and incorporated into the final report. He acknowledged that matters such as roads and related infrastructure are likely to have adverse impacts on local residents. The purpose of discussing these issues during the public hearing is to ensure that none of them is overlooked. He also stated that road construction is a continuous process, and that the objective is to prepare a comprehensive plan before the project becomes operational so that potential future problems can be anticipated and an effective mechanism for their resolution can be implemented after commencement of the project. He further stated that, with the assistance of local public representatives, the district administration would take concrete decisions on relevant matters, and compliance with such decisions would be binding upon the company. Finally, he reiterated that all the issues raised during the public hearing have been duly recorded, and directed both the company and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to ensure that copies of the Final Public Hearing Report are made available to the concerned Gram Panchayats.
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	lieu of such trees. The Project Proponent should provide specific replies on environmental issues. It has been stated that the transportation route will be approximately 19 kilometres long. However, no information has been provided regarding the load-bearing capacity of the road or whether it is a National Highway, State Highway, District Road, or any other category of road. Many of the roads in this area were constructed under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, 1971. The Regional Transport Officer (RTO) should have been present during this public hearing so that appropriate technical information regarding these roads could have been provided. During the earlier public hearing for the Mungoli Mine, I had raised the same issue, following which Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) constructed a 9-kilometre dedicated coal transportation road and a 5-kilometre road for local residents. Similarly, if local residents travelling between Zari-Jamni, Adkoli, Pavanar, and Mukutban meet with road accidents due to the company's transportation activities, the company should clarify whether it will accept responsibility for such incidents.	
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27) Mr. Ashish Anandrao Fulsange, Former Zilla Parishad Member, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The report submitted by the company contains several deficiencies. In accordance with the suggestions of the Hon'ble District Collector, the deficiencies in the company's report should be rectified, and the project report should be revised based on the actual facts prevailing in the project area. Thereafter, a fresh Environmental Public Hearing should be conducted.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and District Collector, Yavatmal, stated that the question of furnishing clarifications during the public hearing does not arise. The purpose of the public hearing is to record the issues raised by the participants and incorporate in the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report the mitigation measures proposed by the Project Proponent in response to those issues. He further stated that the

		Final EIA Report would be duly scrutinized, and only thereafter would the project be considered for grant of Environmental Clearance. He observed that the earlier the land acquisition process is completed, the sooner the subsequent statutory procedures can be carried out. If any difficulties arise during the process, the affected persons may approach the District Collector's Office, the Land Acquisition Office, the Rehabilitation Office, or the Sub-Divisional Officer for redressal of their grievances. He further assured that appropriate follow-up would be undertaken to facilitate the resolution of the grievances raised by the local residents.
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The Chairman of the Public Hearing briefed the people present if there are any other question/issues, the same may be asked. However, nobody came with any question. He announced that copy of the proceedings and CD of the public hearing will be made available in due course of time in MPCB office at Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.

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

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed 10 suggestions/objections received by the office.



(Sushilkumar Rathod)

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



(Tanaji Yadav)

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



(Vikas Meena, I.A.S)

Chairman, Environment Public
Hearing Committee & District
Magistrate, Yavatmal, Dist.
Yavatmal.