

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PROJECT OF EXPANSION FROM 1.5 MTPA TO 3.0 MTPA WITHIN EXISTING MINE LEASE AREA OF 936 HA OF M/S. TAKLI JENA BELLORA (NORTH) & TAKLI JENA BELLORA (SOUTH) COAL MINE, VILLAGES: TAKLI, JENA, BELLORA & 8 OTHERS, TAL. BHADRAWATI, DIST. CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT AURO INFRA PVT. LIMITED, 21ST FLOOR, WING A, GALAXY, PLOT NO. 1, S. NO. 83/1, HYDERABAD KNOWLEDGE CITY, RAIDURG, HYDERABAD – 500081, TELANGANA

Date : 14/08/2026
Time : 11:00 AM
Place : Takli Jena Bellora (North & South) Coal Mine, AIPL Ground, Near Bhangaram Mandir, Village Bellora, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra – 442902.

Preamble: -

Project Proponent Auro Infra Pvt. Limited, 21st Floor, Wing A, Galaxy, Plot No. 1, S. No. 83/1, Hyderabad Knowledge City, Raidurg, Hyderabad – 500081, Telangana has applied to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (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 Expansion from 1.5 MTPA to 3.0 MTPA within existing Mine Lease area of 936 Ha of M/s. Takli Jena Bellora (North) & Takli Jena Bellora (South) Coal Mine, Villages: Takli, Jena, Bellora & 8 Others, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

The proposed project has been approved by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi and Terms of Reference (ToR) was sanctioned on 03/11/2025 & Corrigendum Terms of Reference (ToR) was sanctioned on 19/01/2026. 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 Auro Infra Pvt. Limited, 21st Floor, Wing A, Galaxy, Plot No. 1, S. No. 83/1, Hyderabad Knowledge City, Raidurg, Hyderabad – 500081, Telangana, has applied Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 10/06/2026 for conducting Environment Public Hearing. District Collector, Chandrapur, Maharashtra State, vide their letter dtd. 03/07/2026 in co-ordination with MPCB Chandrapur Office, approved to hold a public hearing on 14/08/2026.

As per EIA Notification, 2006, 30 days advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Chandrapur in the Local Newspaper in Loksatta & Sakal, Nagpur Edition for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily The Times of India for English on 08/07/2026. 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) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110003
- (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, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
- (4) Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
- (5) Collector Office, Chandrapur.
- (6) Zilla Parishad, Chandrapur.
- (7) District Industries Center, Chandrapur.
- (8) Sub-Divisional Office, Chandrapur, Tal. Dist. Chandrapur.
- (9) Municipal Council Bhadrawati, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (10) Tahsil Office Bhadrawati, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (11) Panchayat Samiti Office Bhadrawati, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (12) Grampanchayat Office Takali, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (13) Grampanchayat Office Pawandala, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (14) Grampanchayat Office Dongargaon Khadi, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (15) Grampanchayat Office Kansa Sirpur, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (16) Grampanchayat Office Jena, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (17) Grampanchayat Office Kadholi, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur.
- (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 19/07/2026 as under :-

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| 1) District Magistrate-Chandrapur
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | - | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai | - | Member |

Regional Officer – Chandrapur,
MPCB, Udyog Bhavan, Chandrapur

3) Sub Regional Officer-Chandrapur
MPCB, Udyog Bhavan, Chandrapur

- **Convener**

This office is in receipt 51 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 Dr. Nitin Vyawahare, Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Tanaji Yadav, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Project officials, Journalists, NGOs working in the field of environment and local people who were present in large number and informed all the procedure of the public hearing. He appealed 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. Ajit Nilkanthrao Falke, Former Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Kadholi & President, Congress Sewa Dal Kisan Sangh, Bhadrawati Rural, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-**

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It has been nearly two years since the Auro Infra industry/project was established here. Today, this environmental public hearing is being conducted for enhancement of production from 1.5 million tonnes to 3.0 million tonnes. The company has acquired 936 hectares of land. The company should have completed the acquisition of the entire required land and should also have completed the rehabilitation and resettlement of the village. Only thereafter should the programme for enhancement of production have been organized. However, without doing so, this environmental public hearing is being conducted today. Earlier, a public hearing	The point has been duly noted.

for another project in this area was also conducted. Although we opposed that project during the public hearing, approval was nevertheless granted to the project. This is unfortunate for our people. When the voice of the public is raised so strongly, why is it suppressed? I want an answer to this question. My village, Kiloni, is situated approximately 500 metres from the project. Our group Gram Panchayat is Kadholi. The villages of Kadholi, Somnala, Kondhala and Kiloni fall under this group Gram Panchayat, and a substantial portion of all these four villages is coming under the project. The work being carried out by this mine is indeed commendable because there is a mine called EMTA located adjacent to this mine, and we have witnessed the history and activities of that mine with our own eyes. Although this mine is comparatively small, the company has undertaken several activities under CSR that were expected from the mine. We appreciate these efforts. However, some works are still pending. Near our village Kiloni, a stream flows from Belora. Black-coloured water was discharged into this stream by the mine. In this regard, we submitted written complaints to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, the Tehsildar, the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Hon'ble District Collector, Chandrapur. After a few days, the discharge of black water was stopped. However, due to this water, goats and cattle belonging to some project-affected persons died, and the mine management provided compensation to the affected persons. The water flowing through this stream has to be crossed by our farmers in order to reach their agricultural fields. EMTA Mines is situated on the opposite side, and the forest area is adjacent to it. Wild animals such as wild boars and tigers are present in this forest. In such circumstances, information should be provided regarding what measures the company has taken for the safety and security of our farmers. Belora will be

included in the rehabilitation area, Jena is situated nearby, followed by Kadholi, and there are several other villages further ahead. However, as there are mines surrounding our village, the groundwater level in our village has fallen considerably, resulting in water scarcity during the summer season. Information should be provided regarding the measures taken by the company to address this problem. At the very least, a proper source of water should be made available to us. Instead of simply discharging mine water, the company should make this water available to the local people for beneficial use. Our village Kiloni should be adopted by the company. The company has provided bus facilities for the children of all four villages. The company has also provided an RO plant facility. We appreciate these facilities. However, along with these measures, the water flowing through the stream should also be permitted to be used for irrigation by the project-affected farmers. A resolution of the Gram Sabha in this regard has already been submitted through the Gram Panchayat. Subsequently, in 2024, a meeting was held at the District Collector's Office with the company officials. I have the minutes of that meeting with me, in which the company had assured that appropriate measures would be taken regarding the water flowing through the stream. However, that assurance has not yet been fulfilled. For its own use, the company has completed only about 500 metres of the road leading towards our village. We have submitted a representation to the company requesting that the road work be completed up to Kiloni Phata. The said road is in a very poor and deteriorated condition. The company has the necessary machinery and resources and can undertake the repair and improvement of this road. When we requested overburden material from the company for road-related and other local works, we were asked to obtain permission. Even after the Sarpanch and

other office-bearers of the Gram Panchayat made requests, the overburden material was not provided and written permission was insisted upon. It is stated that the Hon'ble Minister Shri Bawankule has removed all restrictions relating to overburden dumps. Therefore, the company administration should seriously consider this issue and provide a clear response. The company administration should give serious and specific answers to all the questions and issues raised by me today. Although the company is currently relatively small, it has provided employment opportunities to many local people. We welcome and appreciate this initiative. However, our village faces the greatest risk from the pollution generated by the company. At present, large-scale dumping has been carried out by the company. Trees are proposed to be planted over these dumps in the future, which may consequently increase the possibility of wild animals coming into the area. At the same time, there is no permission to kill wild animals. In such circumstances, the question arises as to how farmers will safely carry out agricultural activities. Compensation should be provided to the farmers whose agricultural fields are situated adjacent to the company/project area. Agricultural Officers should be deputed to inspect the agricultural fields. They should prepare a report regarding the crops being cultivated in our fields and the agricultural production thereof. Based on this assessment, permanent compensation should be provided to the local farmers for the losses and adverse impacts caused by the project. I therefore request the company administration and the concerned authorities to take all these issues seriously, provide clear answers to the concerns raised by the affected villagers, and take appropriate corrective measures before proceeding with the proposed enhancement of production.	
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2) **Mr. Rajesh Bele, Founder President, Sanjivani Paryavaran Samajik Sanstha, Tal. Dist. Chandrapur:-**

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Today, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Additional District Magistrate. I have met you several times regarding the mining activities. However, the two officers sitting beside you appear to be completely indifferent and inactive in addressing the environmental concerns. The project has not provided any clear information regarding the measures proposed to protect the local people and the environment from pollution caused by the project. This is a matter of serious concern. During an Environmental Public Hearing, the project proponent is expected to specifically address environmental issues and clearly explain the mitigation measures proposed to control pollution. The project should provide detailed information regarding how the local population will be protected from pollution arising from its activities. I have submitted thousands of complaints regarding pollution to the Regional Officer of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Shri Tanaji Yadav, and the Sub-Regional Officer, Shri Sushilkumar Rathod. However, no effective action has been taken by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on my complaints. You yourself had sought a report from the concerned authorities a few days ago; however, the said report has not been submitted to you till date. We expect justice from your office. Considering the environmental conditions prevailing in Chandrapur district and the reports concerning the health of local residents, the time has come to consider the immediate transfer of such officers from Chandrapur. The lives of wild animals, domestic animals and aquatic fauna are	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the project administration/company representatives would provide a consolidated response to all the issues raised during the public hearing at the conclusion of the proceedings. He further stated that, as there may be repeated or recurring issues raised during the course of the public hearing, all the participants are requested to raise their respective concerns and issues.

also at risk due to the prevailing pollution. There are serious concerns that the proceedings and minutes of public hearings are being manipulated due to alleged collusion between the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board officials and the project authorities. The residents of Bhadravati Taluka are suffering extensively due to pollution from the existing mines. Their agricultural land and farming activities are also being adversely affected on a large scale. One of my local farmer friends informed me that the company had discharged water from its premises. A complaint regarding the same was submitted to the Regional Officer of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. However, till date, no response has been provided by the Regional Officer. Why are complainants not being informed about the action taken on their complaints? It is the responsibility of the pollution control authorities to inform complainants about the action taken on their complaints and the benefits or relief provided to the affected local people. Whenever the officers of the Pollution Control Board are approached, we are informed that the file has been forwarded to the Member Secretary of the Board. When the Hon'ble Member Secretary is contacted, an assurance is given that appropriate action will be taken within the scope of his authority. However, no effective action is being taken at the Regional Officer level. There are also serious concerns regarding the authenticity of inspection reports, as it is alleged that there is collusion between the project authorities and certain officials. As a result, the affected public is not receiving proper justice. At present, farmers are not being provided with adequate basic facilities. It is the responsibility of the project proponents to provide necessary facilities to the local farmers. A bridge should be constructed over the existing drain so that farmers can have proper access for transportation. The bridge should be suitable for the

movement of bullock carts used by the farmers. It appears that the project is operating primarily for generating profit and not sufficiently for the welfare and development of the local community. The project activities have created serious concerns regarding the health of the people of Chandrapur. Why has the project proponent not established a properly equipped hospital or health facility providing free medical treatment to the local population? The project should provide an adequately equipped healthcare facility. Similarly, children from the local community are currently dependent on private schools for their education. The project should establish a school and provide free educational facilities for local students. There is hardly any project in this area that has provided adequate educational facilities for the children of villagers and farmers. The farmer is the backbone of India, yet the local farmers are not receiving adequate benefits from the project activities. The officers of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board are allegedly neglecting the complaints submitted by the affected people. My primary demand is that the project authorities must clearly explain the measures they propose to implement to ensure that the villagers do not suffer any loss or adverse impact due to the project. The project should also provide educational facilities for higher education to local students. Proper roads should be constructed to facilitate transportation for farmers. Adequate compensation should be provided to farmers for losses caused due to project activities. A properly equipped hospital should be established by appointing qualified and specialist doctors to provide necessary medical treatment to the local population. The company should provide immediate and specific responses to all the issues raised during this Environmental Public Hearing. The project authorities are expected to provide appropriate clarification regarding the

issues raised during the Environmental Public Hearing in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Therefore, I request the project administration to provide clear and point-wise responses to all the issues raised by the local residents. We further demand that local residents should be given employment opportunities in the project. Small and medium-sized contracts should be awarded to local Self-Help Groups and local contractors wherever feasible. Employment and contractual opportunities should be provided to unemployed local youth. Local people should not be exploited by outside contractors or agencies. There are concerns that local workers are sometimes made to work for lower wages. Such exploitation of local residents must be prevented. Women from the local area should also be given at least 50% preference in employment opportunities, wherever feasible and as per applicable rules. Wages should be paid to local workers in accordance with the applicable wage policy of the Central Government and other statutory requirements. If the above measures are not implemented and the legitimate concerns of the affected local people are not addressed, we will be constrained to seek appropriate legal remedy before the competent court or authority. The project authorities are therefore requested to take immediate and concrete measures for environmental protection, public health, agricultural welfare, employment generation, education, infrastructure development and the overall welfare of the local community, and to provide a point-wise response to the issues raised during this Environmental Public Hearing.	
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3) Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee & Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur:-

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 Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, requested all the participants to present their views and concerns briefly. He further stated that the proceedings of the present Environmental Public Hearing are being video-graphed and that all the issues and concerns raised by the participants are being duly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. He also informed the participants that a copy of the video recording of the Public Hearing would be annexed to the minutes of the proceedings. He assured everyone that not a single word spoken during today's Public Hearing would be omitted or deleted from the proceedings. He further informed the participants that the minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing are made available free of cost on the official website of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

4) Mr. Vinod Nagpure, Kondha, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	This company is located in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra. However, some employees from outside the State are opposing the use of the Marathi language. A person named Shri Venkatesh Sheikh, who is working as an Operator in the company, was opposing the use of the Marathi language. If industries continue to operate and develop in our region, our local youth will have better employment opportunities. However, there should not be a situation where people from outside the State dominate the employment opportunities meant for the local population. It is observed that workers from outside the State are being provided permanent employment, whereas local people are being engaged mainly through contractual employment. We have remained unemployed for the last 11 months. We have no objection to the company or to industrial development. If more industries are established in this area, it will certainly benefit the local population. However, when people from outside the State adversely affect the rights and employment opportunities of	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that, since Marathi is the official language of the State of Maharashtra, the proceedings of the Public Hearing shall be conducted in Marathi. He requested all the participants to refrain from using inappropriate, unparliamentary or objectionable language while presenting their views and concerns. He stated that the sentiments and concerns expressed by the participants are understood and appreciated. He further assured the participants that no injustice would be caused to the Marathi language and that appropriate action would be taken against the concerned individual. He also stated that the issues and concerns raised by the participant have been duly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings.

the local Marathi-speaking population, why should we not raise our objection against such practices? The local residents have provided their land for the project and are now required to bear the adverse impacts arising from the project activities. My agricultural land is situated on the other side of the drain. My agricultural land has been adversely affected due to the activities of Aurobindo and EMTA companies. I am not blaming only one company for the situation. I am also a worker. Aurobindo Company kept me without work for 11 months. I request that clarification be provided as to whether opposing the Marathi language is permissible or not. The said person has allegedly threatened to suspend a Marathi-speaking worker from duty for ten days. If I have used any inappropriate or objectionable words during the course of expressing my views, I sincerely apologize for the same. However, the company should ensure proper discipline among its employees and should not allow any employee to exert undue pressure on local workers. The company has also not paid me wages for the period of 11 months. These two companies have closed or obstructed the roads used by farmers to access their agricultural fields, thereby causing difficulties to the local farmers. I once again apologize if I have used any inappropriate language while expressing my concerns. I have no objection to the company or its industrial activities. My objection is only against those who oppose the Marathi language and disrespect the linguistic rights and sentiments of the local Marathi-speaking population. The company should establish a Public Consultation/Grievance Redressal Office in this area so that the grievances and complaints of local residents can be properly received, addressed and resolved.	
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5) **Mrs. Sangita Suresh Deharkar, Prashasak, Gat-Grampanchayat Takali, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-**

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Through the CSR funds of the company, RO (Reverse Osmosis) plants have been provided in six project-affected villages. On 08/08/2026, a camp was also organized in the presence of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, and various welfare activities were undertaken. In order to prevent pollution, water sprinklers are being used, and the wheels of vehicles coming out of the mines are being washed before the vehicles proceed further. We appreciate and thank the company for providing various facilities and amenities in our villages. We have only one request to the company: approximately 50-60% of the houses in Belora village have already been acquired by the company, and the remaining houses should also be acquired. Due to the acquisition of 50-60% of the houses, incidents of theft in the village have increased. Therefore, we humbly request the company to provide adequate security to the remaining houses and the affected residents. The company should provide employment and work opportunities primarily to local residents, as the presence of workers from outside the State has caused difficulties for the local population. Due to the acquisition of land by the company, many local residents have been adversely affected and have been left without adequate means of livelihood. Therefore, the company should give priority to the local population in employment and other opportunities. The Wage Board provisions applicable to the workers, as stipulated in the terms and conditions of the agreement, should be implemented for all workers. Since the establishment of this company, local residents of Belora village have received employment	The point has been duly noted.

	opportunities. However, the wages being paid to them are very low. We therefore humbly request the company to increase the wages of the local workers. I would also like to appreciate the company for providing greater employment opportunities to young women compared to young men. I am proud of the company for giving such priority and opportunities to women.	
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6) Mr. Vijay Tajne, Jena, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Two persons were appointed on the company's payroll approximately two months ago. It should be clarified whether these two persons were appointed under any external pressure or whether they were local residents. Why has the principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work", as applicable under the law, not been implemented? In this company, persons who joined after me are being paid higher wages than me. The company is not treating us workers properly. I have been working in this company for the last three years. However, we are repeatedly given assurances only for the next one, two or six months regarding continuation of employment. I had appeared for an interview for the post of Dumper Operator, but I was assigned the work of driving a BharatBenz vehicle. I was assured that I would be assigned work according to my qualifications and skills. However, in this company, local people are allegedly given secondary preference. First preference is allegedly given to persons from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, followed by youth from Maharashtra. The wages of local women workers are reportedly being withheld for two months. The wages of workers should be paid by the 7th of every month in accordance with the applicable Government rules. The officers of the	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the local residents should place their views and concerns on record during the Public Hearing. The project proponent/company would provide an appropriate response to the issues raised. The minutes of the said Public Hearing would be submitted to the Central Government. The Project Proponent stated that the issue raised by the participant was an internal matter of the company. It was a dispute between the company management and its employees. He further stated that the present forum was meant for discussion of environmental matters. He requested the participant to visit the company office and meet the concerned officials, assuring that the issue would be resolved appropriately. The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that individual or personal matters should not be raised during the Public Hearing. Internal matters concerning the company should be discussed with the company management and an appropriate resolution should be arrived at.

Human Resources Department of the company assure workers that their wages will be increased. However, the wages of local workers are increased by only Rs. 50-60, whereas substantial increments are allegedly given to workers from outside the State. The local people of Maharashtra are being treated as if they have no value or importance. After we raised our voice against the withholding of wages, the wages for two months were eventually released. I request the officers present on the dais to answer my questions directly. Instead of providing proper answers, the company authorities are allegedly targeting the workers. Whenever the issue of wages is raised, the workers are asked to remain silent, whereas they are encouraged to speak only about work-related matters. The company officials state that their only responsibility is production-related work. The company authorities had also instructed the workers to attend the Public Hearing in civil dress. I request the officers present on the dais to provide answers to my questions. Otherwise, it will be presumed that there is an understanding or collusion between the company and the concerned officials. I will not leave this place until I receive a satisfactory response to my questions. Even if the company suspends me, I am prepared to face the consequences. I am not a political leader; I am an ordinary person and a worker. The company officials should provide answers to the issues raised by me. Till date, no senior company official has personally met or interacted with us regarding these issues. In the company meeting held on Tuesday, it was stated that the wages of senior workers would be determined according to their seniority. If that is the case, how have workers who joined the company after me been given permanent employment? I have completed three years of service in this company. Why have I not been given permanent employment? We are given an opportunity to speak only on the day of the

The Project Proponent stated that the wages of employees working in the Safety Department are revised twice a year in accordance with the applicable laws. While determining the salary of an employee, factors such as the employee's experience in the relevant field and the salary received by the employee in the previous company are taken into consideration. Accordingly, there may be some variation in the wages of different employees.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the participants should be given an opportunity to present their respective issues and concerns. He further stated that the company would take an appropriate decision regarding the issues raised by the participants.

	Environmental Public Hearing. On other days, the company officials do not properly listen to our grievances. The concerned officials appear to be unwilling or unable to provide satisfactory answers to our questions. Workers who joined the company after us are allegedly receiving wage increases and various facilities from the company, whereas we have not been provided with such benefits. Medical facilities have also not been extended to us till date. We request that the company clearly inform us as to when permanent employment will be provided to the local residents and workers of our village. We also request that the company clarify when the principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work" will be implemented for all eligible workers.	
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7) Dr. Ankush Aglawe, Social Worker, Borda, Tal. Warora, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	At this very location, in the year 2022, a Public Hearing was organized for the purpose of obtaining permission for approximately 1.5 million tonnes of production, in connection with the proposed acquisition of approximately 936 hectares of land. Shri Meshram, the then Sub-Divisional Officer, was present at that Public Hearing. The Sarpanch and two or three other persons who spoke on that occasion did not say anything objectionable. They merely expressed the adverse experiences and grievances that they had faced and conveyed the concerns prevailing among the local residents. If an attempt is made to suppress the voice of the local people by misusing or unnecessarily invoking legal provisions, it may inevitably lead to public unrest. This is the ground reality. Four years have passed, and in the Public Hearing being conducted today, not a single question raised earlier has been properly answered. Under the Right to Information Act, I have	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company has appointed environmental consultants to respond to the questions raised by the participants, and that the environmental consultants would provide the necessary responses.

	obtained the complete record of the previous Public Hearing from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and have brought the same with me today. Today, a Public Hearing is being conducted for increasing the production capacity to 3.0 million tonnes. I am raising a specific question regarding the authority or permission under which 1.5 million tonnes of coal have already been extracted. The project administration/company will have to provide a clear explanation regarding this matter. Before proceeding further, it should first be clarified which authorized representatives or competent officers of the company are present here to provide official responses to the questions and issues raised by the local residents.	
2)	Do the environmental consultants have the authority to provide official answers to the questions raised by the participants? The Environmental Public Hearing was held on 21/06/2022. At that time, Shri S. K. Rai was the concerned officer. Is he present here today? The representations and grievances that we are submitting before you are intended to seek appropriate relief and resolution. The Hon'ble District Collector is present here in his capacity as the competent administrative authority to address the grievances of the affected people. We have no objection or hostility towards the company as such. The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is located approximately 19 kilometres from the project site. Further, the forest areas of Bhandak, Salori and Shegaon are located within a radius of approximately 10 kilometres. In the EIA Report, it has been stated that there is no habitation or occurrence of wild animals in this area. However, the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State of Maharashtra has stated that wildlife, including a species referred to as a "Lizard", is present in this area. The project authorities should clarify on what basis the project was granted the necessary permission or environmental clearance. When tigers are known to	The point has been duly noted.

inhabit the area, such consent or permission cannot be granted without proper consideration of the wildlife concerns. It is further alleged that the company obtained forged or unauthorized signatures of project-affected persons and thereby misled the Government authorities. The Hon'ble Chairman is requested to clarify what action will be taken regarding this matter. There are several such instances of concern. Now, a Public Hearing is being conducted for increasing the production capacity to 3.0 million tonnes. This raises a concern that once again inaccurate or fraudulent documents may be submitted. Four years ago, resolutions of the Gram Sabhas of all 11 Gram Panchayats were obtained and a representation was submitted. However, not even 10% of the works or demands mentioned in those resolutions have been implemented as per the requirements of the local people. It is understood that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has recognized the Gram Sabha as having significant statutory authority in matters concerning local communities and their rights. We have also received information that the approximately 400-page EIA Report was made available/deposited in the villages only four days prior to this Public Hearing. This gives the impression that the report was made available at the last moment, thereby preventing local residents from obtaining adequate information about the project and understanding its implications. The present Public Hearing has been convened specifically to hear and consider the problems and concerns of the local residents. Therefore, the concerned Gram Sevaks were also not provided sufficient opportunity to inform the villagers about the Public Hearing or to adequately explain the project-related information to them. The youth present here are speaking the truth and placing the genuine concerns of the local community before the authorities.	
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3)	During the Environmental Public Hearing held on 21 June 2022, objections were raised by the project-affected persons; however, environmental clearance was subsequently granted to Aurobindo Company by the Ministry of Environment. It is alleged that Aurobindo Company obtained the said approval by submitting false documents and forged signatures of project-affected persons and thereby obtained approval from the concerned authorities. It is further alleged that the names of the actual project-affected persons from the concerned area were not included in the approval proposal. Instead, the proposal reportedly contained the names of project-affected persons from other districts, and their signatures were obtained and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, on the basis of which the proposal was approved. It has also come to light that the names of only one or two project-affected persons from Bhadravati Taluka were mentioned in the proposal and that their signatures were allegedly forged or improperly obtained before submission of the proposal. It is therefore alleged that false and fabricated documents were submitted before the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment for obtaining the requisite approval. As Aurobindo Company is alleged to have submitted a false proposal, appropriate criminal proceedings should be initiated against the company and immediate action should be taken in accordance with law. Despite repeated resolutions submitted by the Gram Sabha, no effective implementation has been undertaken and no due cognizance has been taken of the demands raised therein.	The point has been duly noted.
4)	During the Environmental Public Hearing, I raised a question as to whether the owner or authorized representative of Aurobindo Company is present at this venue. Although I have already submitted my representation in writing, we wish to present our grievances and concerns personally during the Public Hearing, as	The point has been duly noted.

	this hearing has been convened by the Government specifically to ensure that the views, suggestions and objections of the local people are properly heard and duly recorded. It is mandatory to publish the Public Notice relating to the proposed project at least 30 days in advance in local as well as national-level newspapers, as applicable under the relevant environmental regulations. Therefore, detailed information may kindly be provided as to whether the required Public Notice was published in the newspapers within the prescribed period, and if so, the details of the newspapers and the date of publication may also be placed on record.	
5)	The company has acquired approximately 936 hectares of land for open-cast as well as underground mining operations. The company is requested to clarify whether the local landowners and project-affected persons will be provided enhanced land compensation, employment opportunities and wages in accordance with the wage policy followed by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), on the basis of the NCW Board, or as per the applicable NPC policy, and in accordance with Order No. 92(1)/2017-MW dated 09/04/2026 issued by the Labour Commissioner under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. It may also be clarified whether the High Power Committee (HPC) recommendations are applicable to this project. The minimum wages for various categories of workers, namely highly skilled, skilled and unskilled workers, are revised every six months. Accordingly, it is mandatory to pay a daily wage of Rs. 1,000/- to a highly skilled worker and Rs. 800/- to a semi-skilled/skilled worker, as applicable under the prescribed wage rates. The company is requested to clarify whether such applicable minimum wage provisions will be implemented. It should also be clarified whether local residents will be provided employment commensurate with their educational qualifications and technical skills, or whether they will be engaged	The Project Proponent stated that, at present, wages are being paid in accordance with the minimum wage policy prescribed by the Central Government. With regard to the applicability of the High Power Committee (HPC) recommendations, two applications have been submitted to the office of the Labour Commissioner. The same will be implemented in accordance with the guidance and directions received from the Labour Commissioner's office. The workers will initially be appointed at the same level. Thereafter, they will be provided with all necessary training at the company's training centre. Upon completion of the training, the candidates who successfully qualify as per the company's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will, after completion of one year, be placed in the appropriate category based on their educational qualifications.

	merely as labourers. The educational qualifications and skills of the local youth should be appropriately utilized, and they should be given employment opportunities commensurate with their educational background. The company should clarify whether, in compliance with the notifications issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, appointment letters will be issued to local residents under the respective worker categories as prescribed under the applicable wage and labour regulations. The company should also disclose the terms and conditions that will be incorporated in such appointment letters. I will not leave this place until a satisfactory answer to the above questions is provided. The company has acquired the land and, as a consequence, the local residents have been facing considerable hardship and difficulties. If satisfactory answers are not provided, we will be constrained to seek appropriate legal remedy before the competent court and may also seek cancellation or withdrawal of the permission/approval granted to the project in accordance with law.	
6)	The company has stated that workers will be appointed in accordance with their educational qualifications and that wages will be paid as per the applicable minimum wage legislation. However, the proposed salary of only Rs. 20,000/- per month is inadequate, and local residents are not willing to work for such a meagre wage. Even agricultural labourers working in our fields earn more than this amount. In Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), the starting salary is approximately Rs. 80,000/- per month, and the wages are revised every six months. Approximately 50 people have submitted a representation to the Human Rights Organization regarding this issue. At the very least, the company should implement the applicable wage policy in its minimum form. The company should clearly disclose the maximum salary or wage package that it proposes to offer to	The Project Proponent stated that it would not be appropriate to specify the maximum salary or wage at this stage without considering the applicable circumstances. Wages would be paid in accordance with the applicable labour laws and the wage rates prescribed thereunder.

	local workers. Since the company is a private entity, it should consider and appropriately address the genuine demands of the local population regarding wages and employment conditions. No local person is likely to accept employment in the project at a salary of only Rs. 20,000/- per month. The company has the capacity to provide wages of up to approximately Rs. 1,00,000/- per month, particularly to employees appointed in accordance with their educational qualifications and skills.	
7)	The farmers whose land has been acquired by the company are being provided employment opportunities. However, what is the company's policy regarding the traditional occupational communities, such as the Chambar (cobbler), Kumbhar (potter), and other members of the traditional twelve occupational communities (Bara Balutedar), whose livelihoods are also dependent on the local area? It is alleged that approximately 90% preference for employment in this mine is being given to persons from outside the State. All project-affected persons should be issued Project Affected Person (PAP) certificates, and no person from outside the affected area should be included in such certificates. The company has stated that employment has been provided to 1,130 persons and has also provided information regarding their wages. However, will persons whose livelihoods are dependent on agriculture also be issued Project Affected Person certificates and included in the employment opportunities provided by the project? This issue was also raised during the previous Public Hearing, but no satisfactory answer was provided at that time. It is alleged that environmental clearance was obtained on the basis of false or fabricated documents. Such a situation should not be repeated now. The Hon'ble District Collector is therefore requested to direct the company to issue Project Affected Person certificates to all eligible affected persons and to ensure that	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the issues raised by the participant are being duly noted and recorded. The Project Proponent stated that the company has no objection to providing Project Affected Person (PAP) certificates to local persons whose livelihoods are dependent on agriculture. However, the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the concerned Government departments. If approval is granted by the competent Government authorities, the eligible persons will be issued Project Affected Person certificates. The Project Proponent further stated that the company has provided employment opportunities to local residents to the maximum extent possible. As per the company's employment records, approximately 80% of the employment opportunities provided by the company have been given to local residents from Takli, Jena, Bhadravati and Chandrapur. The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that Project Affected Person certificates would be issued to eligible local residents after verification of the relevant documents in accordance with the prescribed Government procedure.

	the employment benefits of the project are extended only to genuine project-affected persons in accordance with the applicable rules.	Thereafter, the company would take further necessary action accordingly.
8)	It is the demand of all the project-affected persons that the project-affected farmers should be provided employment in the company in accordance with their educational qualifications and on the principle of gender equality, in line with the employment practices followed by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL).	The point has been duly noted.
9)	The Project Proponent should submit to the Office of the District Collector a written authorization letter clearly specifying that the concerned person has been duly authorized to represent the company and to address the grievances of the affected farmers and local residents. It should also be clarified whether the said authorization has been executed on a stamp paper or whether only an ordinary letter has been submitted. Merely producing a letter may not be sufficient to establish whether the General Manager (Chief General Manager) of the project has the legal authority to resolve the grievances and claims of the affected farmers. The Hon'ble Additional District Magistrate is present here as the representative of the District Collector, who is the competent administrative authority. Therefore, all the lawful demands raised by the members of the public during this Public Hearing should be duly addressed and fulfilled in accordance with the applicable laws and Government procedures. If approximately 236 hectares of land at Gotala Rith, Govar Deep Rithi, Khandala Rith, Kiloni, Dongargaon and Somnali are proposed to be acquired for open-cast mining, it should be clearly disclosed whether the land acquisition will be carried out under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act or through direct negotiation. It should also be clarified as to where and how the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy will be applicable in respect of the	The point has been duly noted.

	affected landowners and project-affected persons.	
10)	The present company has appeared for this Environmental Public Hearing under the name Aurobindo Realty & Infrastructure Private Limited, Hyderabad. It should be clarified whether the company will continue to operate under the same name or whether its name or ownership is proposed to be changed. It is also stated that, at Mukutban in Yavatmal District, after establishing the company, the owner reportedly earned a profit of approximately Rs. 600 crore within two to three years and subsequently transferred or sold the company to another entity. The affected farmers, however, did not receive any share or benefit from such transaction. The Office of the District Collector is therefore requested to take note of this matter and place the same on record for due consideration.	The point has been duly noted.
11)	The proposed mining activities, including coal loading and unloading, coal transportation, agricultural activities, agricultural land, animal husbandry, farmers, agricultural labourers, villages situated along the roads, and agricultural land adjoining the roads, are likely to be adversely affected by dust pollution. The project authorities should therefore clearly explain the measures proposed to control and mitigate dust pollution and to protect the health and livelihoods of the affected local population, farmers and agricultural workers. Hon'ble District Collector, I urge you to take note of the fact that the Belora mine is proposed to commence operations and that coal transportation is proposed to be carried out up to Nagari Railway Station. In this regard, it should be clearly disclosed what quantity of coal, in terms of tonnes, will be transported by each truck from the mine, whether covered carriers or appropriate dust-control mechanisms will be used for transportation, and whether the existing roads have sufficient width and carrying capacity to handle the proposed volume of heavy-vehicle traffic.	The point has been duly noted.

	These details regarding the proposed transportation capacity, truck loading capacity, road dimensions and their adequacy for the anticipated volume of coal transportation have not been clearly mentioned in the Executive Summary Report. Therefore, the project authorities should provide a specific and detailed clarification on these aspects during the Environmental Public Hearing.	
12)	Will the local residents affected by the project be issued Project Affected Person (PAP) certificates in accordance with the practice followed by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)? For Government projects, the Government issues Project Affected Person certificates to eligible affected persons. Now, Western Coalfields Limited has also started issuing such certificates. These certificates enable eligible project-affected persons to participate in tenders for various works and contracts associated with the project. It should therefore be clarified whether the General Manager of the project has the authority to issue such Project Affected Person certificates to eligible local residents. If the General Manager refuses to issue such certificates despite the eligibility of the affected persons, the competent authorities should examine the matter and, if any fraudulent conduct or deliberate misrepresentation is established, appropriate legal proceedings should be initiated in accordance with law.	The point has been duly noted.
13)	During the previous Environmental Public Hearing, it was stated that plantation of 263,000 trees over an area of 240 hectares had been proposed. This information was also sought under the Right to Information Act. However, not a single such tree is visible at the concerned site. This also amounts to deceiving the farmers and the local residents. It is stated that a person requires approximately 7 kilograms of oxygen to sustain life. In view of the above circumstances, this Public Hearing appears to be merely a formality. The issue of reproductive	The point has been duly noted.

	health and fertility has also been raised during the present Public Hearing, and this concern is genuine. I therefore request the Hon'ble District Collector to conduct a survey of couples residing in the areas where mining operations are being carried out and who were married approximately ten years ago, in order to assess the health-related impacts, if any, arising from mining activities. It is widely understood that coal contains various mineral constituents, including zinc, and concerns have been raised that exposure to such substances may adversely affect reproductive health. The various constituents present in coal and emissions associated with mining activities may also have adverse effects on human health, livestock, birds and other fauna. Therefore, it is requested that an appropriate scientific and health assessment of the affected population, livestock and wildlife in the mining-affected areas be undertaken and that suitable preventive and mitigation measures be implemented.	
14)	Further, the agricultural land that is likely to be adversely affected due to the diversion of the natural drain should be appropriately compensated by the company. Similarly, in the case of open-cast mining, it has been stated that after completion of the 34-year agreement/lease period, the lands acquired from the farmers would be restored and returned to the respective landowners after settlement of their claims. However, no such commitment has been provided in writing. There are approximately 884 farmers who possess land records in the form of 7/12 extracts. The project report states that employment will be provided to 1,130 persons. However, nowhere in the report has it been clearly stated that permanent employment will be provided. The project report also does not specify adequate measures for prevention, control and treatment of diseases and health problems that may arise due to pollution and coal-	The point has been duly noted.

	related pollution. The report further states that a green belt covering approximately 33% of the total project area will be developed. However, the proposed green belt appears to have been planned on the basis of the population data of the year 2020. Since the present year is 2026, the report does not provide updated population data or clarify whether the green belt requirement has been reassessed accordingly. Therefore, the project authorities should provide a clear and specific explanation regarding compensation for agricultural losses, restoration of land after completion of mining operations, permanent employment, health and medical mitigation measures, and the updated green belt development plan.	
15)	It is alleged that, by providing false or incorrect information, the project authorities have misled the villagers and the Government in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The EIA Report should therefore be revised and appropriately corrected, particularly with regard to pollution-related aspects, the impacts of the project, and the interests and rights of the landowners. I respectfully request the Hon'ble District Collector, as the custodian and enforcing authority of the law, to ensure that the revised EIA Report is placed before the concerned Gram Panchayats and read out to the villagers. It is further requested that the revised EIA Report be placed before the Gram Sabha and discussed and read out during the monthly Gram Sabha meeting so that the local residents are properly informed about the project, its environmental impacts, and the proposed mitigation measures.	The point has been duly noted.
16)	Aurobindo Realty is primarily a company engaged in the construction sector. The company was awarded its first coal block by the Government of India in the year 2021 and, prior to this, it had no experience in coal extraction or mining operations. Approximately 80% of the	The Project Proponent stated that the workers have been provided with the benefits of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), and that cashless medical service cards have been issued to certain workers.

coal mines in this region are located in Bhadravati and Warora Talukas. Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) provides extensive medical facilities to its employees and their families, including treatment through a network of hospitals and medical facilities under its medical panel. In view of the fact that the company did not previously have experience in coal mining, it is necessary to clarify how the present agreement or allocation for undertaking coal mining operations was entered into. Mining activities are likely to create various health-related concerns for the local population. Therefore, the company should clearly explain what health-related preventive and remedial measures will be implemented for the local residents. The company should also disclose the names and details of the hospitals and medical facilities empanelled by it for providing healthcare services to the local population. It should be clarified whether treatment will be provided only through the Primary Health Centres or whether specialist and tertiary healthcare facilities will also be made available. In WCL, medical treatment and healthcare facilities are provided to employees and, where applicable, to their family members, including continued access to medical care. Therefore, the company should clearly state what medical facilities and benefits will be provided to the local residents and project-affected persons. As stated by the company, the applicable labour laws of the State Government are being implemented at the project. Generally, there is a difference of approximately Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 4,000/- between the wage structures under the Central and State provisions, as applicable. The company has also stated that wages will be determined according to the educational qualifications of local workers. Several positive initiatives are reportedly being undertaken by the company. However, healthcare facilities are equally important and should not be overlooked. The	He further stated that the project-affected persons who are issued Project Affected Person (PAP) certificates will also be provided with these facilities after they are employed by the company. The Project Proponent further stated that the participant had mentioned earlier that he was also an employee. He questioned why the participant believed that the company was acting against the interests of workers in these matters. He assured that all workers engaged by the company in future would be provided with the facility of cashless medical cards. Such medical facilities would also cover treatment for specified illnesses and medical conditions, as applicable.
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	company should clarify whether it proposes to establish its own multi-speciality hospital and whether the local population and project-affected persons will be provided access to medical treatment through such a facility. I further request the Hon'ble Chairman that, if the project administration is unable or unwilling to provide satisfactory answers to the questions raised by the local people during this Public Hearing, the Public Hearing should be cancelled or deferred at this stage until proper clarifications are provided. The employment opportunities arising from this project should primarily benefit our local youth, particularly those from economically weaker sections. It should also be clearly clarified whether advanced medical treatment and specialist healthcare services will be made available to local residents in the event of serious illnesses such as heart disease, liver disease and other major medical conditions. The company is therefore requested to provide a clear and comprehensive statement regarding the proposed healthcare infrastructure, empanelled hospitals, specialist medical services, emergency treatment and long-term medical support for the local population and project-affected persons.	
17)	There is a woman member on the Board of Directors of this company. Therefore, if the company is receiving any subsidy or financial assistance from the Government of India, the benefits arising therefrom should also be extended to the local farmers and project-affected persons. We have been working in the field of Environmental Public Hearings for the last 20 years and have gained considerable experience in this regard. Based on our experience, we have observed that many of the questions raised by project-affected persons during such Public Hearings do not receive satisfactory answers. As a result, project-affected persons continue to remain affected, and they often do not receive the justice and relief to which they are entitled. While pursuing various	The point has been duly noted.

	environmental matters with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, we have also witnessed several changes and developments in the environmental regulatory framework. We had pursued the establishment of a National Green Tribunal (NGT) Bench for the Western Region, and subsequently, the Central Government established the National Green Tribunal at Pune for addressing environmental matters in the region.	
18)	India is perhaps the only country in the world where land is revered as a mother and referred to as "Maa," "Mata," or "Bhoomata." The injustice being caused to this revered land due to coal mining is, in our view, comparable to an assault upon Mother Earth. Such instances of injustice are occurring on a large scale in Chandrapur District, and similar concerns are also being experienced in Yavatmal District. We acknowledge that energy is essential for the development and progress of the country. However, if the generation of such energy comes at the cost of the lives, livelihoods and well-being of farmers, then the very purpose and benefit of such development must be seriously questioned. Development should therefore be pursued in a manner that ensures the protection of farmers, agricultural land, the environment and the rights and dignity of local communities.	The point has been duly noted.
19)	If we consider the issue of pollution, Chandrapur ranks among the top five most polluted cities in the country. The temperature in this city reaches approximately 45–46°C. Despite such extreme climatic conditions, the region has several coal mines, power generation projects and cement plants, along with numerous other industrial projects. The cumulative impact of these industrial activities on air quality, temperature, public health and the environment is therefore a matter of serious concern.	The point has been duly noted.
20)	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee requested that this matter be brought to the	The point has been duly noted.

	attention of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. It should be brought to the notice of the Ministry that there is movement of tigers within a radius of 10 kilometres from the project boundary. Tigers are included under Schedule I of the applicable wildlife protection provisions. Other wildlife species, including the Bengal Monitor Lizard and the Peacock, as well as other Schedule I and Schedule II wildlife species, are also reported to be present in the project area. It has been observed that the Environmental Consultant has classified the Bengal Monitor Lizard under Schedule II in the EIA Report, whereas the same species has been shown under Schedule I in the Executive Summary Report. Such inconsistencies can mislead the public and the competent authorities. If the Bengal Monitor Lizard is classified under Schedule I, it should be consistently shown under Schedule I in all project documents. The concerned Environmental Consultant appears to have provided different classifications in the EIA Report and the Executive Summary Report. Moreover, the complete EIA Report is not generally made available to the public, and the Executive Summary is primarily relied upon by local residents. Since the EIA Report is a technical and legally significant document, such discrepancies and inconsistencies should not be allowed. The information relating to wildlife species and their Schedule classification must be accurate, consistent and transparent in the EIA Report as well as in the Executive Summary. The competent authorities are therefore requested to verify these discrepancies and ensure that the correct and uniform wildlife information is incorporated in all project-related documents before any further decision is taken.	
21)	Similarly, the information relating to the Reserved Forests should be carefully verified. The Bhandak Reserved Forest,	The point has been duly noted.

	Salori Reserved Forest and Shegaon Reserved Forest are located within a radius of 10 kilometres from the project boundary. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State, has stated in his official letter that there is movement of tigers within the corridor connecting these three Reserved Forest areas. The said letter was requested to be read out before all the participants present at the Public Hearing. However, the Environmental Consultant has stated in the Executive Summary Report that there are no wildlife or forest areas in the project surroundings. This creates a serious discrepancy between the information contained in the official communication of the Forest Department and the information presented in the Executive Summary Report. It is therefore alleged that the Environmental Consultant is misleading the local residents and other stakeholders by failing to properly disclose the presence of Reserved Forests and wildlife movement in the project area. The competent authorities are requested to verify the official records of the Forest Department and ensure that the correct information regarding the Reserved Forests, wildlife habitat and tiger movement corridors is accurately incorporated in the EIA Report and Executive Summary before any further decision is taken.	
22)	Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees every person the fundamental Right to Life. However, it is alleged that the project proponents are undertaking the project in a manner that may adversely affect and jeopardize the lives and livelihoods of the local people. It was further stated that coal transportation associated with the project is likely to damage roads, and that accidents arising from heavy coal-transport vehicles may result in the loss of life of local residents. It was alleged that the project management has not shown adequate concern or responsibility regarding such incidents and their impacts on the local	The point has been duly noted.

	population. The extent of coal-related pollution in Chandrapur District is so severe that even ordinary exposure to the ambient environment allegedly results in visible coal dust contamination. This indicates the seriousness of the prevailing air pollution and the need for stringent pollution-control measures. It was further stated that, in this district as well as in other districts, instances have occurred where companies commence operations and, after four or five years, transfer or sell the project or company to another party for a substantially higher consideration. Such practices should be examined carefully by the competent authorities to ensure that the interests of local residents, project-affected persons, farmers and the environment are not compromised.	
23)	The present project is alleged to involve violations of various applicable laws, including environmental laws, forest and wildlife protection laws, and laws governing mining and mineral extraction. Therefore, if permission is granted to the project despite such alleged violations, it would amount to an infringement of the fundamental Right to Life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. In view of the above circumstances, I respectfully request the competent authority to ensure that justice is provided to the project-affected farmers and local residents. It is alleged that, in the year 2022, the company obtained environmental clearance by misleading the Government authorities and by submitting incorrect or fraudulent information. No effective action was taken by the administration against the company at that time. In this regard, if the information and representations submitted by the company's representatives are found to be false or if the commitments made by them are not acted upon, will the administration initiate appropriate proceedings, including criminal action for fraud or misrepresentation, against the responsible officers of the company? There is a concern that, just as the	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that, if the company fails to fulfil the commitments or assurances given by it, a complaint may be submitted to the Office of the District Collector. He further assured that appropriate action would be taken on such complaint in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

	company allegedly misled the authorities in 2022, similar irregularities may occur during the present proceedings as well. The relevant information will therefore be sought under the Right to Information Act. All the Sarpanches have submitted resolutions of their respective Gram Panchayats before you. However, the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabhas are allegedly being disregarded and not acted upon. As the competent administrative authority and representative of the Government, the Hon'ble Chairman is requested to take due cognizance of the resolutions and grievances submitted by the Gram Sabhas and to exercise the necessary authority to ensure appropriate action in accordance with law. The project-affected farmers and local residents therefore request that their legitimate demands and the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabhas be duly considered before taking any decision regarding the project.	
24)	This is precisely what was expected from the Hon'ble Chairman. The proposed project is expected to operate for the next 50 years, and even if every resident of the 12 villages is provided employment, the available workforce may still be insufficient for the requirements of the project. Therefore, at least 80% of the employment opportunities in the project should be reserved or given preference to local residents, in accordance with the applicable rules and Government policy. The youth of this region are highly educated, and many of them hold qualifications such as M.Tech. and B.Tech. Such qualified local youth should be provided opportunities to work in the administrative and managerial positions of the company commensurate with their educational qualifications and skills. The company should issue and widely publish recruitment advertisements and give due preference to eligible local candidates. Local residents have a better understanding of the local conditions, requirements and problems, and their	The point has been duly noted.

	involvement can significantly contribute to identifying and resolving local issues effectively.	
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8) Hon'ble Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee & Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The participants are requested to present their views and concerns briefly. Shri Aglave has already raised several important issues, including healthcare, education, employment and land acquisition. Therefore, if the participants have any additional issues or concerns apart from those already raised, they are requested to present them briefly.

9) Dr. Ankush Aglawe, Social Worker, Borda, Tal. Warora, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The security guards employed in this industry have complained that their wages are being withheld for periods of two months at a time and that, when the wages are eventually paid, a deduction of approximately 50% is being made from the payable amount.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company should not adopt a position whereby the wages of the workers are withheld or denied. He further directed that an appropriate resolution should be arrived at regarding the payment of wages and that the grievances of the security guards should be resolved accordingly.

10) Mr. Harishchandra Asutkar, Dy. Sarpanch, Jena, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	My village has a population of 786 and comprises 136 families. Out of these, employment has been provided to only 45 persons. There are approximately 70 landless agricultural labourers who were dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Approximately 100 acres of agricultural land are being acquired from the villages of Jena and Somnala. In comparison to the extent of land acquisition and the number of affected	The point has been duly noted.

	families and agricultural labourers, providing employment to only 45 persons is inadequate. Therefore, employment opportunities should also be provided to landless persons and agricultural labourers whose livelihoods are dependent on agriculture. For the benefit of farmers, access roads to agricultural fields should be constructed under the Baliraja Pandhan Shet Rasta Yojana, utilizing suitable overburden material, wherever legally permissible, so that the existing access routes to our agricultural fields remain open and convenient. Due to the extraction of groundwater from the area, the village water supply scheme and agricultural irrigation sources, including borewells, have reportedly dried up. Appropriate measures should therefore be taken to ensure adequate drinking water supply and irrigation facilities for the affected villagers and farmers. Further, agricultural equipment, implements and quality seeds should be provided to local farmers through the company's CSR funds, so as to support agricultural activities and improve the livelihood of the affected farming community.	
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11) Mr. Nilesh Bodhale, Project Affected Person, Jena, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The project-affected persons are presenting their issues and concerns during this Public Hearing. It may kindly be clarified whether a decision on the issues raised will be taken today itself or whether the decision will be taken after completion of the Public Hearing.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, requested the participant to present the issues and concerns briefly, as many other participants were waiting for an opportunity to present their views. The Project Proponent stated that, as already informed, all applicable provisions and requirements would be implemented from time to time in accordance with the rules, regulations and guidelines prescribed by the Government.

2) The company has expressed its willingness to undertake certain new measures and provide various facilities. In this regard, it should be clarified whether the local residents will be informed in advance about the implementation of these measures, or whether the project will first obtain permission to commence the enhanced production. In my view, the proposed measures and commitments should first be implemented and only thereafter permission for enhanced production should be granted. Is the company management agreeable to this? It appears that, in order to maximize its profits, the company is avoiding or delaying the provision of necessary facilities to the local population and workers. The company has stated that wages are being paid in accordance with the applicable minimum wage notification. At the same time, the company's advertisements and public statements refer to public welfare and social development. If that is the stated objective, the company should go beyond the minimum statutory wage and provide fair and appropriate wages to its employees. The company has accepted the applicability of the HPC Wage Board in the agreement. However, we do not agree with the HPC Wage Board. The wages applicable to Coal India Limited under the NCW Wage Board should be extended to the workers of this project. My childhood friend is presently employed with Majri, Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), and receives a monthly salary of approximately Rs. 80,000/-, whereas I am receiving only Rs. 20,000/- per month. Therefore, wages should be provided in accordance with the wage structure applicable under the NCW provisions. The company has provided medical insurance coverage of approximately Rs. 3.0 lakh in the event of major illnesses affecting an employee or a member of the employee's family. However, a substantial amount towards the premium is being deducted from the	The Project Proponent stated that she herself is a woman and is responsible for handling Human Resources functions for eight companies. She informed the participants that an Internal Committee has also been constituted in this company in accordance with the provisions of the POSH Act. She further stated that training relating to the POSH Act is also conducted once every six months. She requested the participant to meet her after completion of the Public Hearing, and assured that she would provide detailed information regarding the implementation of the POSH Act and the functioning of the committee. The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company should undertake appropriate planning and take necessary measures with regard to employment generation and pollution control.
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employees' wages. Similar to the medical and healthcare benefits provided by WCL to its employees, the company should also provide comprehensive medical insurance and healthcare facilities without imposing an excessive financial burden on workers. Further, contract workers who have been working continuously for approximately three to four years, including from the period prior to land acquisition, should be given appropriate employment-related documentation and benefits in accordance with the applicable Central Government rules. Contract workers who have completed three or five years of continuous service, as applicable under the relevant rules, should be considered for absorption into permanent employment wherever legally permissible. Senior officers as well as junior and contractual employees should be provided with equitable and adequate workplace facilities. For example, air-conditioned cabins are provided to senior officers. Similarly, adequate air-conditioned or temperature-controlled rest sheds should be provided for workers so that they are not adversely affected by excessive heat during the summer season. The six-monthly compliance reports indicate that various terms, conditions and environmental requirements are being complied with. However, on the ground, it appears that several of these requirements are not being effectively implemented. Wearing protective masks is mandatory for employees inside the company premises, particularly in areas affected by dust and particulate matter. However, proper compliance with this requirement is allegedly not being ensured. Further, under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, an Internal Committee is required to be constituted at workplaces having the prescribed threshold of employees. However, it is alleged that the required committee has not been constituted or is not functioning effectively. The committee should include

	appropriate women representatives as required under the law. I do not believe that, if I ask the concerned persons here, anyone will be able to provide a satisfactory answer regarding these matters. Merely having policies on paper is not sufficient; effective implementation of those policies is essential. There is also significant pollution caused by EMTA trucks while travelling through the Kiloni Phata area. The employees of this company are also reportedly suffering from pollution-related difficulties. Appropriate measures should therefore be taken to control dust and vehicular pollution and to protect the health and safety of the workers. The company should give due priority to the welfare, health, safety and overall interests of its employees and ensure effective implementation of all commitments and applicable statutory requirements.	
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12) Mr. Akash Wankhede, Dispute Committee Chairman, Gram Panchyat Kadholi, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	A Public Hearing was held for this company in 2022, pursuant to which environmental clearance was granted for a production capacity of 1.5 million tonnes. However, several of the conditions and commitments stipulated therein have allegedly not been complied with. We have no objection to the project as such. However, when the essential environmental conditions stipulated in the existing Environmental Clearance and the Consent issued by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board have not been complied with on the ground, approval for enhancement of the production capacity should not be granted. The existing environmental conditions should first be independently and jointly inspected and actual compliance should be verified. Only thereafter should the proposal for	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the matter falls under the responsibility of the company and that the company should be given an opportunity to provide its response. The Project Proponent stated that garland drains have been constructed. He further stated that appropriate measures would be taken with regard to the issue of pollution raised by the participant. The company would comply with all directions and instructions received from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The company accepts responsibility in this regard and assured that appropriate action would be taken.

enhancement of production capacity be considered. A substantial quantity of soil and silt has accumulated in our drains and rivers. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board itself had conducted a spot inspection and prepared a panchnama in this regard. I had also submitted a complaint regarding the same a few days ago. In 2022, the company had been directed to divert the natural drain. However, instead of diverting the drain, the company allegedly blocked and filled it completely and created a dumping area on the other side, through which vehicular traffic was started. As soon as the first rainfall occurred, the road connecting approximately ten villages in this area was completely blocked, resulting in a flood-like situation in the villages. We have the full right to live with dignity as human beings. The company should not subject local residents to treatment akin to that of animals. As overburden has been carried into the drain, its carrying capacity has been reduced. Along the road through which you have arrived at this location, the Kondha Nala is flowing, and this drain further proceeds downstream. The drain has reportedly been blocked and, due to the accumulation of overburden, its natural channel has effectively been reduced to a narrow drainage channel. The concerned department is requested to direct the company to clean and restore the natural drain. The agricultural fields of certain farmers from Kiloni are situated upstream of this drain. Since the area experiences rainfall for nearly six months, farmers are required to make advance arrangements for agricultural operations. Seeds, fertilizers and harvested crops such as soybean and cotton are stored in advance. Due to the discharge of water into the drain from the company's premises, transportation of harvested agricultural produce from the fields is reportedly becoming difficult or impossible. The company should therefore provide temporary access arrangements at suitable locations by	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company should conduct an internal inquiry into the matter and take appropriate action accordingly. The Project Proponent stated that action would be taken against the concerned officer in accordance with the company's policies. He further stated that the action would be undertaken in accordance with the company's internal rules and procedures.
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laying pipes or culverts across the drain so that farmers can maintain access to their agricultural fields and transport their produce. As per the Consent conditions issued by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, overburden is to be deposited only at designated waste disposal locations. Such overburden dumps are required to be scientifically terraced, and the slope of the overburden should not exceed 28 degrees from the horizontal. Proper vegetation cover or green cover is required to be provided over the overburden for stabilization. However, it is alleged that the company has not complied with these requirements. A drone-based survey of the overburden dumps should therefore be carried out to determine their density, height, slope and distance from the natural drain. A detailed assessment and report based on such survey should be provided to me. I have already submitted a written representation regarding this matter. The applicable conditions also require the construction and maintenance of catch drains and settling ponds for preventing soil, silt and sediment originating from the overburden/mineral dumps from entering the surrounding drainage system. For this purpose, the company has reportedly furnished a bank guarantee. However, effective measures have allegedly not been implemented by the company to prevent the discharge and movement of silt and sediment. The said bank guarantee should therefore be examined and, in the event of established non-compliance with the applicable conditions, appropriate action including forfeiture or encashment of the bank guarantee should be taken in accordance with law. Trees are an indispensable component of human life. Human beings cannot survive without oxygen. The company should award the contract for nursery development and plantation activities to Self-Help Groups from the project-affected villages. It is alleged that the company has awarded the nursery contract to an outside woman

contractor and that timely wages are not being paid through the said contractor. It is also alleged that the grievances of local residents are not being addressed in a timely manner. If such contracts are awarded to local Self-Help Groups, local women will receive employment opportunities and their grievances can also be addressed more effectively and promptly. The wages of women working in the nursery should also be increased. Women who have been working continuously for one year should be considered for permanent employment, subject to applicable law, and newly appointed workers should also be considered for regularization after completion of one year, wherever legally permissible. The mine management should, in the first instance, be held accountable for the alleged blockage of the drain, as the blockage is stated to have occurred due to improper activities undertaken under the management's supervision. Even after the onset of the monsoon, soil had allegedly been allowed to remain in the drain, creating a serious risk of blockage and flooding. The blockage of the drain created a situation in which there was a possibility of major loss of life. I expect an explanation from Shri Dwivedi in this regard. We are law-abiding citizens and seek only a clear and specific answer on this issue. The concerned officer is a responsible official, and mining operations fall within his jurisdiction and responsibilities. He is expected to have knowledge regarding the manner in which mining operations are to be conducted, how work is to be executed through contractors and workers, and the statutory requirements governing mining activities. He is also expected to be aware of the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) regulations, the procedure for obtaining environmental permissions, and the requirements relating to geological surveys and scientific mining practices. I therefore expect a clear response from Shri Dwivedi. The Environmental	
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Clearance stipulated that the natural drain was to be diverted during the initial stage of the mining project. However, the company has allegedly deposited overburden on the opposite side of the drain. Mining operations have already extended up to the boundary of Jena village. Therefore, it is not clear how it can be stated that the mining activities have not progressed further. The possibility of hazardous substances being released or mobilized from below the ground surface is also known to the environmental authorities. Despite this, the overburden has allegedly been deposited adjacent to the natural drain, contrary to the applicable directions and safeguards. Due to an alleged lapse on the part of the company, the health and safety of the residents of Bhadravati have been placed at risk. Mineral-bearing material is reportedly being carried from the mine's overburden dumps into the Kondha Nala and ultimately into the Wardha River. The Bhadravati town receives its water supply from the Wardha River. Therefore, the possibility of inadvertent pollution of the Wardha River through mining-related discharge represents a matter of grave concern. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has reportedly prepared a report stating that the said drain was blocked due to activities associated with the mine. The Field Officer of the Sub-Regional Office of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board investigated the flooding of the drain following the rainfall on 23/06/2026. During the spot inspection conducted pursuant to the complaint, it was observed that a local drain was flowing from the northern direction towards the premises of M/s Auro Infra Pvt. Ltd. (Aurobindo Realty & Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.), Takli Jena (North) and Takli Jena (South) Coal Mine, Mouza Belora, Taluka Bhadravati, District Chandrapur. According to the company, there was no requirement or intention to divert the drain. However, according to the inspecting officers, the

drain was flowing through the industrial/project area. The drain was found to be flowing from north to south through the coal mine area and thereafter joining the Kondha Nala. Two structures were reportedly found across the drain. One was a cement-concrete structure, while the other was an earthen structure reportedly constructed by M/s Auro Infra Pvt. Ltd. (Aurobindo Realty & Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.) for facilitating truck transportation. The local residents reportedly stated, and the company representative also stated, that the structure was not a conventional check dam but was instead a temporary crossing constructed for vehicular transportation by placing cement pipes and filling the surrounding area with soil. We refer to rivers and natural water bodies with the reverence of a mother; nevertheless, the company has allegedly blocked the natural drain. Therefore, appropriate criminal and regulatory action should be initiated against the company and the responsible officers, subject to verification and in accordance with law. The monsoon in this area generally commences from around 7 June. What action did the concerned company officials take between the commencement of the monsoon and 23/06/2026? It is alleged that the company management is attempting to protect or shield the concerned officer from accountability. I have already submitted complaints regarding this matter to the Bhadravati Police Station, the Office of the District Collector, Chandrapur, and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur. A complaint has also been submitted to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister had also convened an online meeting regarding the matter. However, as no criminal case has been registered till date, we are once again raising this demand during the present Public Hearing. It is submitted that under Section 285 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, a dangerous	
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	obstruction or danger to the public in a public place cannot be created or maintained in violation of law. The concerned authorities were aware of the potential consequences, including disruption of public life, yet the drain was allegedly blocked. The company should take appropriate disciplinary action against the concerned officer. Alternatively, if the allegations are found to be established, the company should suspend the concerned officer pending further proceedings. We expect Shri Dwivedi to explain on whose instructions or directions the alleged act was carried out. The authorities should also specify within what period action will be taken against the concerned officer. The same is the demand of the citizens present here. If the company adopts an uncooperative or defiant position even in the presence of the Hon'ble District Collector, the authorities should consider how the local residents may be treated when dealing with the company on ordinary occasions. The Hon'ble District Collector is therefore requested to direct the company to provide a clear and written response to the issues raised. If the blocking of the drain was carried out pursuant to a decision or instruction issued under the company's policy or management direction, the responsibility of the persons who authorized such action should also be examined. A written response from the company regarding all these issues should be provided to me within seven days. The company should also establish, through its conduct and action, that no employee or officer is permitted to act under improper pressure or influence. If a person had died in the incident arising from the blockage of the drain, would the company have accepted responsibility for such loss of life? This question should also be answered by the project management.	
2)	The groundwater level in the village has declined significantly, and the borewells have reportedly dried up. A comparative assessment should be prepared showing	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, requested the participants to

the groundwater level before commencement of mining operations and the extent to which the groundwater level has declined after commencement of mining activities. The said report should be made public and presented before the entire village. There is also a complaint concerning a woman named Kishori Sameshwar Sherki, who was employed by the company. It is alleged that after she proceeded on maternity leave, her services were terminated and she has not been taken back into employment. It is further alleged that her wages for six months have also not been paid. Despite repeated requests by the said woman, she has reportedly not been allowed to resume her duties. She should be permitted to rejoin her employment by the coming Monday. Her employment is essential for supporting the livelihood of her family. Her pending wages for the six-month period, including the wages due from February to August, should also be paid together. The company should clearly inform us within how many days she will be reinstated in employment. Further, the family of Shri Wakudkar has been residing in the area for the last 20 years and has been working as agricultural labourers on the farms of major landholders in the area, including the Matte and Satpute families. No survey of such agricultural labourers has reportedly been conducted by the company, and no compensation or other assistance has been provided to them. Compensation of approximately Rs. 25 lakh each should be provided to these two or three affected families, subject to verification of their eligibility and claims. Approximately 350-400 workers are currently engaged in the company through contractual arrangements. These workers are from Belora, Takli, Jena, Kadholi and other nearby villages. Workers who have been continuously working for the last one year should be considered for permanent employment, subject to the applicable labour laws. Their wages should be	present any suggestions or objections that they wished to submit orally. He further informed the participants that suggestions and objections were also being accepted in written form. He assured the participants that all the issues and concerns raised by them were being duly recorded in the minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing.
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suitably revised and necessary employment-related facilities and benefits should also be provided to them. The company should also direct the contractors to ensure timely and regular payment of wages to all contractual workers in accordance with applicable labour laws. It is further stated that the company, in consultation with the local public representatives, has entered into an agreement in accordance with the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy. The said agreement bears the signatures of the Hon'ble Sub-Divisional Officer, company representatives and the concerned Sarpanch. The agreement specifies the date and manner in which the land would be acquired. As per the said agreement, land was to be acquired at approximately Rs. 26 lakh per unit, along with provision of employment opportunities. It was also assured that local residents would be given the option to offer their land for acquisition according to their preference. However, the land of several local residents who had already submitted the required documents has still not been acquired. The complete land holdings of Belora and Jena villages have also not been acquired. As per information obtained under the Right to Information Act, the company has so far purchased only approximately 350 acres of land. It is further stated that certain land situated outside the mining lease area was allotted by the Government of India to the company. The said land had earlier been given by local farmers to Daga Collieries at a rate of approximately Rs. 12,000–15,000 per unit. After the closure of Daga Collieries, the said land should have been returned to the original farmers in accordance with the applicable provisions. However, instead of returning the land to the farmers, it was allegedly transferred by the Government of India in the name of the present mine/project, and the company reportedly paid charges of approximately Rs. 10–12 lakh to the Government as per the applicable	
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	Government rates. Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is reportedly prepared to provide compensation of approximately Rs. 30 lakh for similar land in our village, and the process is underway. The farmers' land was originally acquired at approximately Rs. 12,000, and subsequently the Government of India reportedly received approximately Rs. 12 lakh in relation to the same land. The same land is now proposed to be sold or transferred to WCL at approximately Rs. 30 lakh. There appears to be a serious discrepancy or irregularity in this transaction, which requires detailed investigation. The company should therefore distribute the remaining compensation of approximately Rs. 14 lakh to all eligible landholders falling within the 142-hectare area, subject to verification of the relevant records and entitlement. It is further stated that some of the affected persons obtained employment only after raising their grievances and engaging in prolonged discussions or disputes with the company. The rehabilitation of Belora village should be undertaken immediately in accordance with the applicable rules and the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with the affected residents. After the rehabilitation of the village, the continued services of the existing ASHA worker may no longer be required in the relocated settlement. The company is therefore requested to consider providing employment to such ASHA worker in its medical or healthcare department, subject to her qualifications and applicable recruitment rules.	
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13) Mr. Rohit Kakde, Bellora, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

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 No. 6 is situated in Belora village. As per the company's project map, approximately	The Project Proponent stated that the company is willing to acquire the participant's land.

one acre of my agricultural land lies along the project boundary. The company has stated that it intends to acquire only one acre of my land. In that case, what am I expected to do with the remaining two acres? There is no alternative access road available for me to reach my agricultural land. I therefore request the company to construct an access road to my agricultural field to facilitate regular movement and agricultural activities. I also request the company to construct a house for me, as required in connection with the acquisition and rehabilitation of my affected property. If the company refuses to provide these facilities, I will be constrained to seek appropriate legal remedy before the competent court. The company officials had earlier visited my residence for the purpose of acquiring my land and had assured me that employment would be provided in return. At that time, I was not willing to sell my agricultural land. However, now that I am willing to sell the land, the company is avoiding acquisition of my entire holding. The company is presently offering compensation of approximately Rs. 66,33,000/-. According to the applicable Government provisions, I believe that compensation of approximately Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 5 crore should be payable for the land and associated losses. However, no concerned authority or representative is willing to provide a clear response on this issue. I am myself a contractor and I pay my workers a monthly wage of approximately Rs. 25,000/-, whereas the company is offering only approximately Rs. 20,000/- per month to its workers. The company has stated that, in view of a Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) mine being proposed in the future, the land may subsequently be transferred to WCL. The company has further stated that it would have to provide the land to WCL at a lower rate. The company is referring to the potential losses that may occur after five years, but no adequate consideration is being given to the losses that I am

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that, with regard to individual matters, the company officials should contact the concerned local residents and explain the land acquisition process to them in detail.

He further instructed the company to remain in regular communication with the villagers and to take appropriate steps to resolve their grievances and concerns.

The Project Proponent stated that the employment offered against the land acquisition compensation would be on the same terms and conditions applicable to similarly situated persons.

	suffering at present. I therefore request that the company acquire my entire three-acre landholding and suitably revise the compensation offered for the land in accordance with the applicable Government provisions and prevailing market value. I am myself an Engineer and therefore request that I be provided employment commensurate with my educational qualifications and professional skills. I have recently resigned from my existing employment because the company had assured me that I would be provided employment within the next two months. I therefore request the company to honour its commitment and provide me suitable employment at the earliest.	
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14) Mr. Anil Vaidya, Bellora, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The agricultural land in our village has been acquired by the company, and the local residents have allegedly been misled in the process. The wages due to the women from our village should be paid promptly and in full in accordance with the applicable labour laws and contractual terms.	The point has been duly noted.

15) Mr. Pradip Mahakulkar, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Panwadala, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	During this Public Hearing, I would like to state that I have already brought the issues concerning my village, Panwadala, to the notice of the Hon'ble District Collector and the Sub-Divisional Officer. Till date, except for approximately three or four persons, no one from our village has been provided employment. Approximately half of the land required	The point has been duly noted.

for the project falls within the jurisdiction of the Panwadala Gram Panchayat. The company has undertaken several good initiatives through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, and I expect the company to continue such welfare activities in the future. However, the land acquisition rate of Rs. 26 lakh per unit being offered by the company is not acceptable to us. The local residents are demanding a land compensation rate in the range of Rs. 22 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh, as applicable to the concerned land and prevailing circumstances. The compensation being offered for the land is inadequate, and the company should reconsider and suitably increase the land acquisition rate. The overburden generated from the mining operations should be provided free of cost to the Gram Panchayats, wherever legally permissible, for development and maintenance of village roads and other public works. When we approached the company with this request, the company provided approximately 10–20 dumpers of overburden material. However, the company stated that vehicles transporting overburden could be liable to penalties. Had the company provided adequate quantities of overburden material to the Gram Panchayats, the Pandhan roads/access roads to agricultural fields could have been properly developed and improved for the benefit of the local farmers and residents.	
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16) Mr. Pravin Narayan Thengane, Former Sabhapati, Panchayat Samiti Bhadrawati, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The agreement entered into on 16/09/2025 under the mediation of the Government was required to be implemented strictly and in its entirety. However, the same has not been fully implemented. As per the said agreement, the acquisition of the land	The point has been duly noted.

	required for the project was to be completed by 16/09/2026. There are differences in the demands and expectations of various farmers, and such differences are legitimate. The company had proposed that it was willing to acquire the land of those farmers who were prepared to part with their land at a rate of Rs. 26 lakh, and that no farmer would be subjected to any coercion in this regard. There are also farmers for whom the rate of Rs. 26 lakh is not acceptable. However, due to certain technical and financial constraints, acquisition of the remaining land could not be completed by 16/09/2026. Therefore, after 16/09/2026, the company should negotiate with the farmers whose lands are yet to be acquired and complete the acquisition through mutual discussion and consent. Mining activities are likely to cause pollution-related impacts on the farmers and their agricultural land. The land acquisition rate proposed by the company earlier is no longer acceptable to the farmers. The company should therefore conduct negotiations with the concerned farmers under the mediation of the Government and acquire the required land on mutually agreed terms. The said agreement also contains a provision for payment of the differential amount to the farmers whose land was acquired earlier, wherever applicable. Unless the remaining land is acquired and the applicable differential compensation is paid in accordance with the agreement, the company may not be in a position to achieve the proposed production capacity of 3.0 million tonnes.	
2)	The rehabilitation process of Belora village is progressing at a very slow pace. I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the company for providing compensation on such a large scale for land acquired for the coal mining project, as such a substantial amount of compensation has rarely been provided by any project proponent in the country. However, the rehabilitation process should now be expedited. Even Western	The point has been duly noted.

	Coalfields Limited (WCL) does not undertake rehabilitation at such a rapid pace. The company has reportedly provided rehabilitation compensation to approximately 150–175 persons. The remaining eligible persons should also be provided the rehabilitation compensation at the earliest. The mine has now reached within approximately 200 metres of the village. Therefore, unless the rehabilitation of the village is completed, further expansion of the mining operations cannot proceed. The company is therefore requested to complete the rehabilitation of the remaining affected residents and the village at the earliest, in accordance with the applicable Rehabilitation and Resettlement provisions and the commitments made by the company.	
3)	As per the agreement, the company had agreed to provide employment within one month to eligible project-affected youth. However, it has been observed that persons whose houses have been acquired as part of the rehabilitation process have not been issued appointment letters even after four months. This is a serious matter, and they should be taken into employment within the coming week. The road passing in front of the villages of Kiloni, Belora, Jena and Kansa, as well as the natural drain, should not be diverted until the entire land falling within the affected area has been acquired, wherever such acquisition is required. The company is requested not to divert or alter any natural drain, road, agricultural access road (Pandhan road) or other village infrastructure in the surrounding area without taking the local residents into confidence and obtaining the requisite permission from the competent Government authorities. Due to the congested mining area, water is accumulating in the surrounding area. Further, as vegetation has not been planted over the overburden dumps, dust is generated during the summer season, resulting in damage to agricultural crops	The point has been duly noted.

in the adjoining areas. The company has not paid compensation for damage caused to agricultural crops till date. However, under the applicable legal provisions, if agricultural land, crops, roads or drains are damaged due to any project or project-related activities, compensation is required to be paid for such damage. Appropriate action should therefore be taken in this regard. The roads connecting the villages have deteriorated severely due to the movement of company vehicles, and the number of accidents has reportedly increased. The company should therefore immediately undertake repair, strengthening and/or renewal of the roads in the project-affected area. The possibility of making appropriate provision for such road-related works from the CSR funds should also be examined. Water containing chemicals or other contaminants generated from the mine should not be discharged without proper treatment. This is one of the most important issues requiring immediate attention. The company has stated that an amount of Rs. 1.0 crore has been spent under CSR. However, this amount is extremely inadequate in comparison with the production undertaken by the company to date. CSR expenditure should be proportionate to the scale of production and should adequately benefit the project-affected villages. In any greenfield project or mining project, there is generally a shortage of trained HEMM operators during the initial stages. The company initially brought approximately 70 trained operators from outside the area, and their wages are reportedly higher than those of local workers. The wages of local operators and operators brought from outside the area should be equal for equal work and similar qualifications and responsibilities. During the initial stages of mining operations, trained HEMM operators were not readily available locally. However, at present, trained HEMM operators are available in the region. If the company establishes an

HEMM Training Centre in this area, it would greatly benefit the local population and provide valuable skills to unemployed youth. Such training would enable local youth to obtain employment as PC Operators, Dumper Operators, HEMM Operators and Volvo Operators. There is reportedly no adequate provision for such training in the existing project arrangements. The company should appoint an appropriate consultant or training agency for this purpose. At present, a local youth may initially join the company as a helper and, after certain adjustments or informal training, eventually reach the level of an operator. If the company provides structured training facilities, local youth can directly qualify and join as HEMM operators. The expenditure for such a training programme should be incurred under CSR. Employment for unemployed persons from project-affected villages is one of the most important issues before the local community. The local population bears the dust and other adverse impacts of the project, and the project is being developed on or around their agricultural land. If persons from outside the area are provided employment while unemployed youth from the project-affected villages continue to remain without employment, it would be a matter of serious concern and an injustice to the local population. The manner in which employment opportunities have been provided to women in this coal project is commendable, and such an initiative has reportedly not been seen to the same extent in other projects. The company deserves appreciation for this. The company gave priority to local persons during the initial stage of recruitment. However, it has allegedly not provided adequate employment opportunities to local residents for the last three years. The company should therefore give first priority to eligible local persons in future recruitment. Earlier, the concept of captive coal mines did not exist in the

same manner, and coal mines were primarily operated by the Government. Wage fixation in Coal India is governed by the National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA), which is applicable to employees of Coal India and its subsidiaries and is not automatically applicable to all other coal mining projects. Over time, outsourcing and contractual employment arrangements were also introduced in WCL, under which workers engaged through external agencies were paid wages by the contractors. The issue of minimum wages for coal mine workers has been under discussion for a long period. Neither the Central Government's nor the State Government's general minimum-wage structure is, by itself, considered sufficient to address the wage structure applicable to coal-mining workers in certain circumstances. In view of this long-standing dispute, Coal India, the Ministry of Coal, the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the concerned organizations arrived at an alternative mechanism through the recommendations of the High Power Committee (HPC) for determination of wages. It has been stated that HPC wages are determined by reference to the wages paid by Coal India in relation to the applicable minimum wage structure. Accordingly, the minimum wages otherwise being paid are not treated as the sole applicable benchmark for such workers where the HPC mechanism applies. As per the applicable arrangement, the company cannot pay wages below the prescribed HPC wage level. The company has given a written assurance that after completion of one year of training, project-affected local workers would be paid wages in accordance with the applicable HPC wage structure. However, it is also my view that the company should follow the applicable HPC wage structure for workers engaged through external agencies and contractors. Workers engaged through outsourcing arrangements should not be exploited,

particularly since they are performing substantial work and are retained because of their skills and experience. The disparity in wages between permanent employees and workers engaged through external agencies should be appropriately reduced and, where applicable, eliminated in accordance with law and the relevant wage provisions. It is further stated that the Central Government has granted this mining block to the company on a lease basis and, therefore, the company is not the absolute owner of the land. The land has reportedly been granted to the company for a limited lease period of approximately 30 years, and upon completion of the required compliance and lease conditions, the land is to revert to the Government in accordance with the applicable terms. The land formerly associated with Daga Central Colliery was reportedly acquired by the Government through an award for a specific public purpose. However, the stated purpose for which the land was acquired was allegedly not fully achieved. Under the applicable legal provisions, where land acquired by the Government is no longer required for the purpose for which it was acquired, there are provisions under certain circumstances for restoration or return of the land to the original landholders, subject to refund or adjustment of the compensation and compliance with the applicable legal procedure. On that basis, no objection has been raised regarding the company providing permanent employment to 16 workers associated with Central Collieries. However, the interests of farmers having ownership rights over approximately 127 hectares of land should also be considered. The Government should intervene and provide at least an appropriate amount of compensation or financial assistance, particularly since the said land was originally acquired at rates of approximately Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 12,000/-. The company has also reportedly paid the Government

consideration or charges for the land received from the Government at the applicable Government rates. This is therefore a request to the Government to examine the matter and ensure that the affected landholders receive fair and appropriate treatment. Workers entering the company premises are subjected to alcohol testing. This has helped impose restrictions on alcohol consumption by workers. Such a system should be considered for implementation across other industries as well, wherever appropriate and legally permissible. A person named Shri Dnyaneshwar Nannaware, who is suffering from cancer, should be considered for employment by the company, subject to his eligibility and fitness for the relevant work. The company should also provide appropriate assistance and support to persons suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer, subject to its policy and applicable law. There should also be proper supervisory control and accountability of senior officers over junior officers and subordinate staff. The company has reportedly received an award from the Ministry of Coal for proper operation of the coal mine. While appreciating this achievement, I would like to state that the project will not achieve its full environmental and social objectives unless the genuine problems of the local population are resolved. The expansion of the mine should also not proceed without addressing the legitimate concerns of the project-affected persons. Even if the project obtains permission for a production capacity of 3.0 million tonnes, the project proponent will still require additional land for achieving the proposed production capacity. Therefore, the company should first complete the land acquisition process, undertake the rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected village, fulfil all contractual and statutory obligations, and only thereafter proceed with further mining activities in accordance with law. This is a coal mining

project being undertaken in an area belonging to and inhabited by local villagers. Therefore, the genuine concerns of the villagers should be resolved on a priority basis. I am submitting my written representation to the Hon'ble Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, as well as to the Hon'ble District Collector. Earlier, before commencement of the company's operations, meetings were held from time to time with the Gram Panchayats. However, such meetings have reportedly been discontinued by the company. If the company does not maintain regular communication with the project-affected persons, it will not be able to understand or resolve their genuine problems. The company is therefore requested to organize regular meetings with project-affected persons, either at the Government level or at the company level. There is also delay in payment of rehabilitation compensation to project-affected persons. Greater transparency, consistency and accountability should be ensured in the process of determining and disbursing such compensation. Project-affected persons should also be provided appropriate compensation for the relocation and shifting of their livestock and cattle, wherever applicable. The participation of women in the employment generated by the project is reportedly inadequate in certain areas. The company should give due attention to increasing employment opportunities for local women. Local women's Self-Help Groups should be provided employment and work opportunities wherever feasible, and the remaining eligible unemployed persons from the project-affected villages should be accommodated in employment opportunities at the earliest, subject to applicable rules and qualifications.	
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17) Mrs. Pooja Gajanan Pimpalkar, Jena, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It should be clarified whether the Environmental Public Hearing is required to be conducted prior to obtaining permission for coal extraction, or whether the permission for coal extraction is obtained first. The company has stated that it had obtained permission to extract coal from the land allotted to it. It should be clarified whether such permission is subject to any prescribed validity period or time limit. The company has stated that coal extraction has already been carried out by it. According to the statement made by Shri Pravin Thengan, the company undertook all necessary activities properly after a period of three years and thereafter commenced coal extraction. However, my contention is that approximately three years ago, the same company had registered a criminal case against Shri Gajanan Pimpalkar, Shri Ramesh Pandile, residents of Belora, and Shri Suresh Deharkar, after they stopped the company's coal transportation vehicles. I have documentary evidence in support of this matter. Therefore, it should be clarified whether the information being provided by the company is incorrect or whether the information being presented by me is incorrect. The company may also have received a notice from the concerned Environmental Department directing it to stop or suspend its operations. The representatives of the company should have complete knowledge of such notices and the action taken pursuant thereto. The company is therefore requested to provide a clear and factual explanation regarding the permissions obtained for coal extraction, the validity period of such permissions, the actual date on which coal extraction commenced, and any notices issued by the competent environmental	The Environmental Consultant stated that the present Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the expansion of the project. The company had already obtained approval for extraction of 1.5 million tonnes of coal per annum, and the present Public Hearing is being conducted for the proposed enhancement of the production capacity to 3.0 million tonnes per annum. He further stated that coal extraction is not carried out without obtaining the requisite Environmental Clearance and the Consent to Establish/Operate from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company should call the concerned persons, discuss their grievances and take appropriate steps to resolve their issues.

	authorities concerning suspension or stoppage of operations.	
2)	According to the company, it has obtained permission for coal extraction; however, it is alleged that the said permission is illegal. To my understanding, whenever any Government authority awards a contract or grants permission for any activity, a specific period is generally prescribed within which the work or activity is required to be completed. Therefore, a specific validity period must also have been prescribed for the company to undertake coal extraction. It is alleged that the company had commenced coal extraction approximately three years ago and that, when three persons opposed the said activity, the company registered criminal cases against them without properly questioning or hearing them. This raises a serious concern as to whether criminal cases will be registered against local residents merely because they raise objections or express opposition to the project. It should be clarified why the period or validity granted by the Government to the company for undertaking coal extraction was not disclosed or published in the newspapers. The company has stated that coal extraction was undertaken after complying with all applicable Government rules and regulations. However, my contention is that the company has not complied with the applicable Government requirements and has instead resorted to registering criminal cases against local residents who raised objections. It is also alleged that permission for coal extraction can be obtained only after obtaining the requisite approval from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and/or after completion of the Environmental Public Hearing, as applicable. The company has also not published or disclosed the validity period for which permission to undertake coal extraction was granted. Whenever villagers raise objections to the project, they are allegedly subjected to harassment	The Project Proponent stated that, prior to the present company, a coal mining company operating under the name Daga Collieries was functioning at the same location. He further stated that the company has undertaken and is continuing coal extraction only after complying with all applicable Government rules and regulations and completing the prescribed statutory procedures. The Project Proponent reiterated that coal extraction is being carried out strictly in accordance with the policies and requirements prescribed by the Government. He also stated that the company has not received any direction or instruction from the Government to stop or suspend coal extraction activities.

	and criminal cases are registered against them through misuse or excessive invocation of legal provisions. The competent authorities are therefore requested to verify the legality of the permissions granted to the company, the validity period of such permissions, the actual date of commencement of coal extraction, and the statutory approvals obtained by the company, and to place the relevant information on record for the benefit of the local residents.	
3)	Approximately four to five months ago, the work order issued to Shri Manoj Thengane by the company was cancelled. Subsequently, when the Hon'ble MLA Shri Sudhirji Mungantiwar visited the coal mine, he assured the local residents that employment opportunities would be provided to them. However, the company has provided employment only to persons whose land has been acquired, while a large number of other eligible local residents have still not been provided employment opportunities. Due to the lack of employment opportunities and livelihood options, unemployed local youth are reportedly becoming increasingly vulnerable to substance abuse and other social problems. The company is therefore requested to give priority to eligible local unemployed youth in employment opportunities and take appropriate measures to address the resulting social and economic concerns.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company should conduct a survey of the project-affected villages and give preference to eligible local residents for employment, based on their educational qualifications and the manpower requirements of the company. The Project Proponent stated that the said suggestion would be duly complied with.
4)	It is alleged that the tenders issued by the company are being awarded only to persons having political affiliations or connections. In such circumstances, where are the other local persons expected to go for employment and business opportunities? My husband has approached the company on two or three occasions during the last nine months regarding this issue, but no satisfactory response has been provided by the company. If the company intends to award tenders only to politically connected persons, it is difficult to understand how the local population will benefit from the	The point has been duly noted.

	project. The officers of the company's administration should remain accessible and available on a regular basis to address and resolve the grievances and concerns of local residents. The village belongs to us, the agricultural land belongs to us, and the land is being acquired for the mining project; however, if the work and contracts arising from the project are provided only to politically connected persons, how can this be considered fair or just? The company has failed to provide a clear reason as to why my husband was not provided work and has stated that no work is currently available. This gives the impression that the company is not adequately addressing the concerns of the general public and local residents. The company should therefore ensure transparency and fairness in the allocation of tenders and employment opportunities and provide due preference to eligible local persons.	
5)	Persons whose houses have been acquired by the company have not been provided employment in the company even after a period of three months. I have documentary evidence in support of this matter. Even after completion and submission of all the required documents, the company has allegedly delayed providing employment to such persons for a period of three months. The company is requested to provide employment to all eligible affected persons without further delay, in accordance with the applicable agreement, commitments and Government provisions.	The Project Proponent stated that appointment letters would be issued after completion of the entire documentation process. There are approximately 30-40 cases in which the required documentation has not yet been fully completed. Where a family consists of four members, a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from all concerned family members is required before the employment process can be completed. The Project Proponent further stated that once all the required documents and formalities are duly completed, employment will be provided by the company without further delay.
6)	Since diversion of the road passing through Jena village is not feasible, the company should undertake the rehabilitation of Jena village and thereafter commence the mining operations in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. I have documentary evidence regarding the alleged illegal mining activities being carried out by the company. The company	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company should give due attention to resolving the problems and grievances of the local villagers. He further directed that a specific day and time should be fixed for local villagers to

had earlier provided bus facilities for students from the villages of Jena, Kansa and Belora. The said facility was inaugurated in the presence of the Hon'ble MLA Shri Karan Devtale. However, thereafter, I received a video relating to a meeting concerning the alleged illegal mining activities of M/s. Aurobindo Company, in which a proposal was reportedly being discussed with the Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Human Resources. On the one hand, a public representative is reportedly raising concerns regarding the alleged illegal mining activities of the company, while on the other hand, when local residents protest against such activities, they are allegedly arrested. The rehabilitation of Jena village should therefore be undertaken immediately so that the residents are protected from adverse health impacts and pollution-related diseases arising from the mining operations. This would also help address the shortage of water and other basic facilities faced by the villagers. I have not yet received an answer to my question regarding the company's tendering process. If the company intends to award contracts only to politically connected persons, how will local residents obtain employment and business opportunities? The company should also clarify why adequate importance and preference are not being given to eligible local persons. The company has been stating for the last one year that expansion activities are being undertaken. However, the company should clarify the exact meaning and scope of "expansion" in the present context and also explain why the proposed expansion has not been carried out during the last one year. It is further alleged that, under the applicable provisions governing environmental matters and the National Green Tribunal framework, the company cannot undertake coal extraction without obtaining the requisite Consent/No Objection Certificate from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, as	meet the company representatives and that an appropriate public notice or press release regarding the same should be issued. The company should formulate a clear policy for addressing the grievances of local residents and resolve their issues in accordance with the said policy. The Project Proponent stated that the said directions would be duly complied with. He further stated that one day every week would be designated for meeting and interacting with the villagers. The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, asked whether the prescribed tendering procedure was being duly followed by the company and directed that the relevant information be provided. The Project Proponent stated that, so far, contracts relating to works in the existing/old mine had been awarded. He further stated that, while awarding contracts for works arising from the proposed expansion, due preference would be given to eligible local persons, subject to the applicable rules and procedures. The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, directed the company to ensure strict compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and statutory provisions.
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	applicable. Despite this, the company is alleged to have continued coal extraction illegally. A complaint regarding the alleged illegal mining activities will therefore be submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. If justice is provided to us at this forum itself and our legitimate grievances are properly addressed, there will be no need for us to approach the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.	
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18) Mr. Vasudev Vidhate, 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)	For several years, Environmental Public Hearings have been conducted for mining projects, highway projects and other industrial projects in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, and the subsequent amendments, including those applicable in 2009. Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees every Indian citizen the fundamental right to life. The scope of this right also encompasses the right to a clean and healthy environment. If we consider the overall pollution scenario in Chandrapur District, the issue is not confined to Chandrapur alone. In the adjoining Yavatmal District, particularly in Wani and Zari Talukas, a large number of mining projects, industrial projects, cement plants and power generation projects are also operational. In the annual surveys conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur District has consistently been included among the ten most polluted cities or areas in the country. This situation has been observed for several years. Such pollution has significant adverse impacts on the environment and public health. It is also unfortunate that, despite the crop losses suffered by farmers whose land is not directly acquired by any project but whose	The point has been duly noted.

agricultural activities are adversely affected by project-related pollution, no comprehensive policy has so far been formulated at the Government level to address such losses. It is therefore essential that a specific policy be formulated for the benefit and protection of the people of Chandrapur District. Further, under Article 39(b) of the Constitution of India, natural resources such as water, forests, land, coal and other natural resources are not intended to be treated as the exclusive property of any private company but are regarded as resources held for the benefit of the community. The rights and benefits arising from such resources should therefore be considered in the larger public interest. We have been repeatedly pursuing the matter with the State Government for effective implementation of Article 39(b) of the Constitution. However, the same has not yet been effectively implemented. My question is: the present mining block has been allotted by the Government to the company, the company has commenced operations at this location, and a Public Hearing is now being conducted for expansion of the project. In [the case referred to by the participant as] Yakub Das and Others, 9 SCC 725, a decision was reportedly delivered in 2013 against farmers in Kerala by the Hon'ble High Court. The affected farmers thereafter approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It is stated that, in 2013, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that where any mineral is found beneath the surface of the land, the landholder has ownership rights in the mineral resources situated beneath the land. In this regard, I have submitted several representations to the Offices of the District Collector, Chandrapur and District Collector, Yavatmal, as well as to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the concerned Central Ministries. It is alleged that the administration is disregarding the aforesaid decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Despite continuously

pursuing this matter since 2013, the Government authorities have allegedly failed to take appropriate action. As a result, land having a value of several crores of rupees is allegedly being transferred or acquired for amounts running only into a few lakhs. We have been informed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has recognized the rights of landholders in relation to such mineral resources. Further, in Civil Appeal/Case No. 10 SCC 1/2024, Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India Ltd., the Nine-Judge Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also delivered a judgment concerning the rights associated with mineral resources. The administration is required to comply with the said judgment as well. However, despite pursuing this matter for the last two years, the issue has allegedly not been addressed and the rights claimed by the farmers have not been recognized. This has also resulted in substantial loss to farmers. For most projects, large areas of agricultural land belonging to farmers are acquired, and mineral resources are also found beneath such land. It is therefore our contention that the rights over such mineral resources should also be considered in determining the entitlements of the landowners. Accordingly, the amount paid merely as compensation for the surface land is a secondary issue. My specific question is: why should the farmers not be compensated by the company or the Government for the mineral resources situated beneath the land owned by them? I therefore seek a clear answer as to under which law the Government has allotted this mining block to the present company. Even if my questions are not answered today, I will examine and review the minutes of this Public Hearing. During the Environmental Public Hearings conducted over the last 20 years, satisfactory answers have, in my experience, not been provided by the administration, the Maharashtra Pollution

Control Board or the project proponents. My first question is: under which law has this mining block been allotted to the company? My second question is: when the Hon'ble Supreme Court has reportedly held that rights over mineral resources lying beneath the land vest with the landholder, why is the farmer being offered only Rs. 26 lakh as compensation? The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also observed, as understood and referred to by us, that where there is no specific statutory provision governing ownership of mineral resources, the applicable legal principles must be applied. Therefore, where no law expressly provides otherwise, the ownership rights in such mineral resources should be examined in accordance with the applicable legal framework and the rights of the landholder. The present mining block has reportedly been allotted to the company under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. The company may contend that, under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, the ownership of coal in this area vests with the Government. However, it is our contention that Section 10 of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 applies in the context of coal mining undertaken by Government companies such as Coal India, and that the statutory position governing ownership and extraction rights should also be specifically examined in relation to private companies. Although ownership and control of coal-bearing areas may vest with the Government under the relevant provisions of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, it is contended that there is no separate and comprehensive law that expressly establishes that every private company automatically acquires ownership rights over the underlying mineral resources merely because the Government has allotted a mining block to it. The company has come to this area, has offered

compensation for land, and has obtained various Government permissions. My question is whether, merely by virtue of these factors, the company becomes the owner of the coal lying beneath the land. My clear objection is that the ownership of the coal and other mineral resources beneath the land should not automatically be treated as belonging to either the Government or the company, and that the rights of the local farmers and landholders must also be duly considered in accordance with law. Therefore, we will have to collectively pursue the demand for fair compensation exceeding the amount of Rs. 26 lakh, wherever legally justified. We shall examine the response provided by the company in this regard. I thank the administration for giving me an opportunity to place my views before this Public Hearing. During today's Public Hearing, it has become evident that some people are satisfied with the project, while others are facing difficulties and adverse impacts because of it. Therefore, I request the Project Proponent to ensure that whatever benefits can legitimately be provided to the public through the project should be provided, and that every possible measure should be taken to ensure that the local population does not suffer adverse impacts or losses. I had also attended the earlier Public Hearing conducted for the same project. At that time, I had raised the issue of the presence of tigers in this area. The presence of tigers in this region was clearly referred to in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The tiger is included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. There have been incidents of attacks on cattle and human beings by tigers in this area. In addition, wild boars are causing substantial disturbance and damage in the region. However, adequate attention is allegedly not being given to this issue by the Government authorities. Considering all these circumstances, the local residents are placing their genuine and pressing concerns before the authorities. As per the

Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, a participant raising issues during a Public Hearing should be given a reasonable opportunity to place all relevant concerns on record, and the participant should not be improperly prevented from raising legitimate issues. There are also judicial decisions concerning the conduct of Public Hearings. The proceedings should not be arbitrarily curtailed merely because the participants wish to reiterate important environmental and public concerns. If the Public Hearing cannot be completed on a single day, provision exists under the applicable Environmental Impact Assessment procedure for adjourning or deferring the proceedings and continuing them on another day, as may be required. It is further stated that the company supplied the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the villages only four to five days prior to the Public Hearing. The said EIA Report was required to be made available to the concerned Gram Panchayats sufficiently in advance, including the period prescribed under the applicable notification, so that the local residents could study and understand the proposed project and its environmental implications. How can local residents properly understand and seek clarification on a detailed EIA Report within only four or five days? It should therefore be clarified why the EIA Report was not made available to the concerned Gram Panchayats at least 30 days prior to the Public Hearing, as required under the applicable procedure, and why the relevant advertisements published in English-language and regional-language newspapers were not supplied along with the EIA documents. Accordingly, it is my objection that the procedural requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification have not been duly complied with. In view of the alleged procedural deficiencies and inadequate disclosure of project information to the local	
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	population, I therefore request that the present Environmental Public Hearing be cancelled or deferred until the prescribed requirements are properly complied with and adequate opportunity is provided to the local residents to examine the relevant documents and place their objections and suggestions on record.	
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19) Mrs. Jyotsna Mangesh Gowardhan, Bellora, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Approximately 50% of the houses in our village have been acquired by the company, and as a result, concerns have arisen regarding the safety and security of some of the remaining houses. The company should acquire the remaining houses in due course and should also take responsibility for the safety and security of the houses that remain in the village. In the event of any security-related incident or loss affecting the remaining houses, the company should be held responsible, subject to the applicable law. The company is therefore requested to clarify whether it will assume responsibility for the remaining houses and their safety and security. The company should provide employment to at least 90% of the eligible local residents, based on their educational qualifications, skills and suitability for the available positions. Further, after the relocation of Belora village to Bhadravati, the company should provide a bus transportation facility for the residents so that they can conveniently travel to and from their place of employment. The company has undertaken several welfare initiatives under its CSR programme, including installation of an RO water treatment plant, provision of school bus facilities, and organization of free eye-check-up camps. An ambulance facility has also been made available for emergency situations. The company has also paid wages to workers even during	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, requested the participants to raise all their questions and concerns. He further stated that the company administration would provide consolidated responses to all the questions and issues raised during the Public Hearing.

	periods when the company's operations were closed. These initiatives are appreciated. The company is requested to extend the applicable HPC wage structure to contractual workers as well, in accordance with the applicable rules and legal provisions. During today's proceedings, when local political leaders or influential persons from the surrounding area raise complaints, objections or suggestions, their views appear to receive considerable attention. However, the grievances of poor and economically weaker local residents are often not adequately heard or considered. It is therefore requested that the compensation and other benefits arising from the project should reach the persons who are genuinely entitled to them. The compensation belonging to the affected local residents should be paid directly to the respective eligible beneficiaries and should not be diverted or appropriated by any other person.	
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20) Mr. Prashant Matte, Bellora, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	As per the agreement entered into by the company, persons who opted for houses in lieu of their land acquisition have been provided with houses, while those who opted for monetary compensation have been provided with compensation. However, despite the company having acquired approximately 30-40% of the houses, a suitable rehabilitation site has still not been finalized for us. We have purchased land at another location, but the process of obtaining Non-Agricultural (NA) permission for the said land is still pending. The company should provide the necessary basic facilities and infrastructure at the said location. Further, proper plots should be arranged and allotted for the persons whose houses have been acquired by the company. The	The Project Proponent stated that the concerns raised by the participant would be resolved upon completion of the rehabilitation process. He further stated that the issues would be addressed through strict implementation of the applicable Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy. The Project Proponent also assured that written commitments would be provided in respect of all the issues and concerns raised by the participants.

	rehabilitation site should have been finalized before commencing the rehabilitation process. Once the rehabilitation is completed, there is a concern that the affected residents may not receive adequate attention or support thereafter. Fourteen of us had already submitted a request that plots should also be allotted to us at the site identified and accepted by the villagers. However, the company has allegedly not taken appropriate action on our request. If the above issue is not resolved within the next three to four days, we will be compelled to undertake a hunger strike in support of our legitimate demands.	
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21) Mr. Vishal Pramod Dudhe, Project Affected Person, Bellora, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I am placing before this Public Hearing, on behalf of the project-affected villagers, a clear and legally grounded position regarding the issues concerning the project. A similar Environmental Public Hearing was conducted in the year 2022. However, it does not appear that the issues raised during that Public Hearing have been fully addressed or complied with in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Review meetings regarding these matters are being conducted from time to time under the mediation of the District Administration. During these review meetings, the company has undertaken commendable work on certain issues that were raised. Compared to KPCL, the present company has also undertaken certain environmental initiatives without specifically publicizing them. The company has implemented several measures through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. Further, compared to KPCL, the company has reportedly provided comparatively better wage increases to its employees.	The point has been duly noted.

My first and foremost question is whether the District Administration and the authorities associated with this Public Hearing have verified whether the project-affected families in this area have received their rehabilitation, compensation, housing-related benefits, land-related benefits and all other statutory rehabilitation and resettlement benefits in full. This verification is essential because the village is situated at a distance of approximately 100 metres from the project area. Since the village is located so close to the mining area, permitting an enhanced production capacity of 3.5 million tonnes would make the situation extremely sensitive from the perspective of public safety, environment and human habitation. I expect the company representatives to provide specific answers to the following questions:

- How many families have been affected by the project?
- How many affected families have received full compensation?
- How many affected families have been fully rehabilitated?
- How many cases are still pending?
- How many cases relating to land and houses are yet to be resolved?

We require official, documentary and family-wise details in respect of each of the above questions. The company is seeking permission to enhance its production capacity from 1.5 million tonnes per annum to 3.0 million tonnes per annum. In this regard, it should be clarified whether the company has sufficient alternative land available for undertaking the proposed expansion and achieving the enhanced production capacity. Further, after obtaining the Environmental Clearance, the proposed Mining Plan for the project should be presented and explained before the Public Hearing, including the proposed plan for the subsequent 23-month period, so that the local residents and project-affected

	persons are clearly informed about the proposed mining activities, land requirements and operational expansion.	
2)	Second Issue – Compliance with the Previous Environmental Conditions. Before granting approval for any enhancement in the production capacity, it would not be appropriate to proceed without independently verifying whether all the conditions stipulated in the previous Environmental Clearance (EC) have been fully complied with. Therefore, our demand is that the compliance report for each and every condition stipulated in the previous EC should be made public. Along with the report submitted by the company, the inspection and verification report prepared by the concerned Government authorities should also be made available. The actual monitoring data relating to air quality, water quality, dust, noise, blasting, transportation and groundwater levels should be made available to the villagers in a transparent manner. An Action Taken Report (ATR) should also be submitted indicating how many of the objections, demands and concerns raised by the villagers during the previous Public Hearing have been resolved and what action has been taken on each issue. It should specifically be clarified whether all the conditions and terms stipulated in the Environmental Clearance granted to the company in 2022 have been fully complied with. Since this area is an industrial zone and there are farmers as well as school-going children in the surrounding area, it is essential that a three-tier plantation/green belt be developed around and within the project area to adequately mitigate dust and other environmental impacts. In fact, compared to the adjoining KPCL project, the present company appears to have a comparatively better environmental management plan. However, on the ground, it does not appear that tree plantation has been undertaken over the overburden areas to the extent required. Similarly, the expenditure expected to be incurred by the	The Environmental Consultant stated that the company has complied with the terms and conditions stipulated in the previous Environmental Clearance and that the half-yearly compliance report has been submitted to the concerned department. The said compliance report is currently under examination and verification by the competent authorities. He further stated that plantation is a continuous process and that the number of trees planted will be increased every year. Till date, approximately 18,705 trees have been planted, depending upon the availability of suitable land. The proposed expansion project is expected to generate approximately 690 million cubic metres of overburden. Out of this, approximately 554 million cubic metres of overburden will be utilized for internal dumping. Further, approximately 94 million cubic metres of overburden will be dumped within the mining lease area. Garland drains will be constructed and siltation traps will also be provided to control the movement of soil, silt and sediment from the overburden dumps. At present, no plantation has been undertaken over the overburden dumps because the dumped overburden is proposed to be utilized for backfilling and land reclamation after completion of the excavation process over the next three years. The company proposes to undertake backfilling activities progressively over the next 30 years, as per the mining plan and the sequence of mining operations.

	company for plantation and environmental protection measures in the project-affected villages does not appear to have been incurred to the required extent. Consequently, it does not appear that the necessary ecological balance and environmental safeguards have been adequately maintained. The company should therefore provide a clear year-wise schedule indicating by which year the backfilling work proposed under the first phase will be completed, along with the corresponding land restoration and plantation programme.	
3)	Third Issue – Increase in Production Capacity. The proposed production capacity is being increased from 1.50 MTPA to 3.0 MTPA, which represents a substantial increase in the production capacity. Therefore, our questions are as follows: • To what extent will coal transportation increase? • How many vehicles will enter and exit the project area each day? • To what extent will dust generation increase? • How much will water consumption increase? • What quantity of overburden will be generated? • To what extent will the intensity and frequency of blasting increase? • What impact will the increased mining and transportation activities have on the roads passing through the villages and the surrounding areas? All the above issues should be addressed through clear, quantitative and measurable data in the EIA Report, in a manner that is transparent and easily understandable to the local residents. Further, as per the Environmental Clearance conditions, the company does not presently have even a single electric vehicle (EV) available for project-related operations. The company also does not have a mechanical sweeping machine.	The Environmental Consultant stated that the proposed production would be approximately 9,091 tonnes per day, and that the coal would be transported through approximately 40 dumpers per day via the State/National Highway. He further stated that the company has a mechanical sweeping machine, which is operational and has already been put into service. The water sprinkling system is also operational. He clarified that, as the coal mine had remained closed for an interim period, these facilities may not have been visible or operational at the time of the participant's visit.

	The company should therefore clarify how it proposes to comply with the applicable environmental conditions relating to the use of electric vehicles, dust suppression and mechanized road-cleaning measures upon enhancement of the production capacity.	
4)	Fourth Issue – The Mine is Situated in Close Proximity to the Village. This is not merely a 936-hectare project existing on paper. People live here. There are houses, agricultural fields, schools, wells and an established village community whose lives and livelihoods may be affected by the project. Therefore, the expansion of the mine should not be considered solely from the perspective of “how much coal will be produced?” but also from the perspective of “to what extent will the expansion affect the lives, safety, health and livelihoods of the villagers?” The rehabilitation of the village is reportedly being undertaken through direct negotiation. In this regard, it should be clarified who invoked Section 4 on 26/06/2024, and what was the purpose or objective of invoking the said provision. Direct negotiations were reportedly conducted with approximately 50% of the affected residents. Thereafter, a Social Impact (SI) Report was submitted, pursuant to which certain objections were raised by the local residents. A list containing the names of approximately 800–900 persons has reportedly been submitted to the authorities. The company should therefore clearly disclose the time period within which the rehabilitation process of the village will be completed. As per the Gram Panchayat records, the population of Belora village is approximately 2,500 persons. In comparison, it appears that only approximately 15% of the houses have so far been rehabilitated by the company. The company should have undertaken proper planning and substantially completed the rehabilitation process before seeking or obtaining the requisite Environmental Clearance for further	The Project Proponent stated that a rehabilitation plan for Belora village has been prepared. As per the survey and measurement records, documents relating to 352 houses have been received by the company and the further process is underway. He further stated that the cases relating to the remaining 105 houses are pending due to non-receipt of the requisite tax receipts. Further action will be taken immediately upon receipt of the said tax receipts. The rehabilitation benefits/compensation payable to the eligible beneficiaries will be directly credited to their respective bank accounts through Dhanakarsh Bank. The Project Proponent further stated that detailed responses to the questions raised by the participant would be provided along with the relevant supporting documents. The Hon’ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the company should expedite the rehabilitation process and complete the same at the earliest. The Project Proponent stated that the rehabilitation process would be undertaken expeditiously and with due sensitivity, and that appropriate action would be taken at the earliest.

	expansion. Further, after completion of the SI survey, the company should have issued notices to the affected villagers informing them about the requirement to submit the necessary documents for rehabilitation and compensation. The company should conduct a survey of at least 100 houses every week so that the rehabilitation process can be expedited and completed within a reasonable period. In future, mining activities under the proposed expansion will involve blasting during coal extraction. Such blasting may cause cracks or structural damage to houses in the village and may potentially result in injury to persons and damage to property. If the company does not complete the rehabilitation process at the earliest, it is my view that the State Government and Central Government should carefully reconsider whether permission for the proposed expansion project should be granted. If permission for the expansion is nevertheless granted, further appropriate legal proceedings may have to be initiated against the Environmental Clearance, similar to the action contemplated in relation to the KPCL project. We have no objection to the company's project as such. However, the concerns of the local residents must be adequately addressed before the expansion is permitted. It is also stated that KPCL has not undertaken adequate developmental or welfare activities for the villages in its surrounding area.	
5)	Fifth Issue – Groundwater and Agriculture. Coal mining activities may adversely affect the groundwater level in the surrounding area. Therefore, the present baseline data relating to the water availability in village wells, borewells and agricultural sources should be scientifically assessed, and the likely future impacts of mining activities on groundwater should be studied and made public. A clear and scientific assessment should also be provided regarding the likely impact of the project on the availability and quality of groundwater	The point has been duly noted.

	used for domestic and agricultural purposes. If, in the future, the wells in the village dry up, agricultural activities are adversely affected, or the quality of groundwater deteriorates due to the mining operations, the responsibility and liability for such impacts must be clearly defined. The company and the competent authorities should therefore clarify today itself who will be responsible for addressing and compensating for such damage or losses, if established to have occurred as a result of the project.	
6)	Sixth Issue – Dust Pollution and Health. Coal extraction, crushing, loading and transportation activities are likely to increase dust pollution in the surrounding area. Therefore, continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations should be installed in and around the village areas to regularly monitor air quality. The monitoring data generated through these stations should be made available to the concerned Gram Panchayats and local residents in an online and publicly accessible manner, so that the community can remain informed about the actual air quality and pollution levels. Further, a worker from Kiloni village had resigned from employment due to certain family-related reasons. The company had assured the said worker that he would be reinstated within six months. However, even after completion of one year, the worker has reportedly not been taken back into employment. The company is therefore requested to clarify the reasons for the delay and to take appropriate action regarding the reinstatement of the concerned worker in accordance with the applicable rules and the commitment given by the company.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, directed that the concerned person be reinstated in employment immediately.

22) Mr. Mahesh Kawduji More, Gram Panchayat Kondha, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The company has undertaken several commendable activities for the villages in the surrounding area. However, it should be clearly disclosed at which location the rehabilitation of Belora village is proposed to be carried out. The village of Kavdi was rehabilitated approximately 30 years ago. At present, one part of the village is situated at Kuchna and the other part is situated at Bhadravati. In my view, this issue should have been raised by the villagers at that time. The company should have identified and finalized a suitable site for the rehabilitation of Belora village in advance. The company should also ensure that all necessary basic infrastructure and civic amenities are provided at the rehabilitation site before the villagers are relocated. The rehabilitation site should therefore be properly planned and equipped with all essential facilities, including roads, water supply, drainage, electricity, sanitation, healthcare, education and other basic amenities required for dignified living.	The point has been duly noted.

23) Mr. Sachi Dukre, Dy. Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Kadholi, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Aurobindo Company had given an assurance in writing regarding providing employment opportunities to the local residents of our village. However, only one person from our village has been provided employment so far. A list containing the names of approximately 25-30 unemployed youth from our village has already been submitted to the company. However, none of these youth	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that the issue of employment has been raised repeatedly during the Public Hearing and that the company should give due preference to local residents in employment opportunities. He further stated that a

has been provided employment till date. When we approached the company regarding this matter, the company representatives reportedly stated that they had no concern or involvement with our Gram Panchayat. The company is therefore requested to clarify the reasons for not providing employment to the eligible local youth despite the assurance given in writing and the list submitted by the Gram Panchayat.	written response regarding the same would be provided. The Project Proponent stated that the company's employment policy contains provisions for providing employment to local residents and that eligible local persons would be provided employment accordingly. He further stated that the matter of employment opportunities for local residents would be considered positively and with due sensitivity.
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24) Mr. Praful Chatki, Mayor, Bhadrawati Municipal Council, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Today, an Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the proposed project. The Government of India enacted the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 19/11/1986. During that period, the Bhopal gas leak incident had highlighted the serious consequences of industrial pollution and environmental hazards. Today, the EMTA mine has been established in this area and another mine is being developed by Aurobindo. It is a matter of serious concern that Chandrapur District is widely regarded as one of the highly polluted districts in the country. Due to pollution, children in this district are reportedly suffering from various health problems. Water pollution in the surrounding environment is also occurring, and complaints have been submitted to the Pollution Control Board regarding contamination of water in the area between the EMTA mine and the Aurobindo mine. Mine water should not be discharged without proper treatment. Appropriate sewage and wastewater treatment facilities, including a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) wherever applicable, should be installed and maintained. However, it is alleged that,	The point has been duly noted.

over time, such treatment facilities are not adequately maintained or repaired, resulting in untreated or inadequately treated wastewater being discharged into the natural drains. The Government of Maharashtra has repeatedly emphasized the need to prevent water pollution. Water contamination can have serious consequences for public health. There are also serious concerns regarding the reported prevalence of cancer and other diseases in Chandrapur District, including concerns relating to cancer among women and children. These health concerns should not be ignored by industrial establishments operating in the region. The company should undertake appropriate measures to safeguard the health of the residents of Bhadravati city and the surrounding areas adjoining the mine. The company is therefore requested to clarify whether it proposes to establish or provide a hospital or adequately equipped healthcare facility for the benefit of the people of this taluka. A large number of villages in this region are likely to be project-affected. The impacts of the project are also likely to extend to the residents of Bhadravati city. The temperature in Chandrapur District is reportedly exceeding 45°C, and concerns have been raised regarding the contribution of coal mining and other industrial activities to local environmental and climatic conditions. The air quality in the region is also a matter of serious concern. On behalf of the villagers, I request the company to implement effective measures for the prevention and control of air pollution and water pollution and to ensure proper environmental safeguards. Bhadravati is a town with a population of approximately 50,000 to 60,000 people. Several industries have stated that Bhadravati does not fall within their area of responsibility. However, as per the applicable Government policy relating to CSR, industries are expected to undertake CSR activities in villages and communities falling within the prescribed

surrounding area. It is alleged that neither EMTA nor Aurobindo has undertaken any substantial CSR activity in Bhadravati city to date. While establishing and operating the project, all applicable Government guidelines, environmental safeguards and statutory requirements should be strictly implemented. I therefore request the Hon'ble Chairperson of today's Environmental Public Hearing to take due note of all the issues raised by me in the minutes of the proceedings and ensure that the company undertakes appropriate corrective and preventive measures with regard to pollution control, public health, water quality, air quality and community welfare.	
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25) Mr. Mukesh Jiwtode, Lok Sabha Sanghatak, Chandrapur-Wani-Arni Constituency, Shivsena, Warora, Tal. Warora, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It may kindly be clarified whether the present Environmental Public Hearing is confined strictly to environmental issues or whether matters relating to workers' employment, rehabilitation and resettlement, compensation, and the company's policies may also be raised and considered. All the farmers and project-affected persons present here have taken leave from their work and attended this Public Hearing with the expectation that their genuine grievances and concerns would be heard and appropriately resolved. During the Environmental Public Hearing conducted earlier in connection with the EMTA project, the local residents had strongly opposed the project. Despite such opposition, Environmental Clearance was subsequently granted to the project. Thereafter, repeated complaints were submitted to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board stating that the company had not established the required Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for treatment of	The Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that, during an Environmental Public Hearing, matters relating to environmental protection, land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, employment and compensation are also included and considered along with other environmental issues. He further stated that all the issues and concerns raised by the participants during the Public Hearing are duly recorded, and information is obtained from the company regarding the measures proposed or undertaken to address those issues. Accordingly, the minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing are prepared and submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board. The requisite approvals to industries are granted by the competent authority of the Central Government, as applicable. The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee

domestic sewage. Complaints were also submitted regarding the failure to divert the natural drains as required. It was further alleged that untreated wastewater from the mine was being discharged directly into the natural drainage system and ultimately into the river, resulting in contamination of groundwater. A complaint was also made that contaminated water was subsequently being supplied through pipelines for drinking purposes to the local residents. When the issues raised during a Public Hearing are not properly addressed and industries allegedly fail to comply with environmental rules and conditions, how are such projects granted further approvals without first ensuring compliance? Despite a large number of complaints regarding pollution from the EMTA mine, and despite observations or allegations that the applicable environmental conditions had not been complied with, permission was nevertheless granted to the project. It is therefore alleged that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is misleading the local residents by failing to take appropriate action on their complaints. Poor and economically weaker local residents approach the authorities with considerable hope and expectation when they submit complaints regarding pollution and other environmental issues. The said company subsequently obtained approvals from the District Administration and the concerned Environmental Department. No industrial project can ordinarily obtain the requisite approvals without appropriate reports and recommendations from the competent local authorities. It is further stated that approximately 2,000-3,000 local residents had boycotted the Environmental Public Hearing conducted for the EMTA mine. Despite such a large-scale boycott and opposition by the local community, Environmental Clearance was granted to the project. The Regional Officer and Sub-Regional Officer of the

and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, stated that Environmental Clearance is granted by the Central Government and that no decision regarding the grant of Environmental Clearance is taken during the Public Hearing. He further stated that all the issues and concerns raised during the Public Hearing are recorded verbatim/as stated by the participants and submitted to the Central Government for consideration and further necessary action.

	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board allegedly failed to ensure proper resolution of the complaints raised against the EMTA company. It is further alleged that the EMTA company did not comply with the applicable environmental requirements to the extent expected. Due to such alleged negligence and inadequate enforcement, project-affected residents continue to suffer from coal dust and other pollution-related impacts. The concerned authorities and the Pollution Control Board should therefore discharge their duties in the public interest and ensure that the concerns of ordinary citizens, farmers and project-affected persons are properly heard, investigated and resolved in accordance with law.	
2)	The rehabilitation process of the project-affected persons should be carried out properly and in accordance with the applicable rules and commitments. Adequate employment opportunities should also be provided to eligible local residents. The company should establish a dedicated Volvo Operator Training Centre in the area, provide training to local youth in the operation of Volvo heavy vehicles, and provide suitable employment opportunities to those who successfully complete the training, subject to the company's requirements and applicable rules. There are two power projects operating at Warora, namely Wardha Power, with a capacity of 135×4 MW, and GMR, with a capacity of 300×2 MW. At the time of commencement of these projects, local residents were engaged as workers. After approximately ten years, many of the same workers have progressed and are now working as Conveyor Operators, Dozer Operators and Stacker Operators. Stone pitching work was earlier undertaken by Khandala Company. Local residents learned this work and acquired the necessary skills. The company placed its trust in local people and provided them with an opportunity to learn and develop their skills. However, the present company	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, directed that the issues raised by the participants be duly recorded and that immediate appropriate action be taken thereon.

officials are reportedly avoiding the employment of local persons on the ground that the vehicles and equipment are expensive and require skilled operators. Unemployment in the region has increased substantially. Since the company is also a part of this society, it has a social responsibility to contribute to the welfare and development of the local community. There appears to be a prevailing apprehension among project proponents that if local residents are provided employment, they may form an organization or union and thereby create difficulties in the functioning of the company. However, this concern can be addressed through proper communication, fair employment practices and transparent labour-management relations. Approximately 95% of the workforce at Wardha Power consists of local residents. Similarly, more than 95% of the workforce at GMR is reportedly from the local area. If the company maintains proper communication with local residents, implements the applicable minimum wage provisions of the Central and State Governments, and ensures timely payment of wages and statutory leave and other employment benefits, local workers will also work sincerely and efficiently for the benefit of the company. However, unless the apprehensions and misconceptions regarding local workers are removed from the company's approach, it will be difficult to achieve meaningful improvement in local employment. The company is also engaging transporters from outside the local area for transportation activities. Instead, the company should consider providing opportunities to local transport operators and local contractors wherever feasible and permissible. After providing employment to one eligible member of a project-affected family, opportunities and consideration should also be extended to other eligible members of the family, subject to applicable rules and company policy. Such an approach would

	contribute to the overall welfare of affected families and help reduce unemployment. The benefits generated by the project should reach the local residents and should not be limited to or disproportionately benefit individual public representatives or influential persons. The officials present at the Public Hearing should give due attention to the educational, healthcare and employment-related concerns of the local population and ensure that unemployed and project-affected persons receive fair and appropriate consideration in accordance with the applicable rules. The company is therefore requested to adopt a transparent and inclusive approach towards local employment, skill development, worker welfare and the overall socio-economic development of the project-affected area.	
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26) Mr. Vitthal Punwatkar, Project Affected Person & Former Dy. Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Baranj Mokasa, Tal. Warora, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The concerned appointments/selection were made through the Sub-Divisional Officer, and accordingly, the SRI list for rehabilitation was published. It may kindly be clarified as to when the company will take further action on the said list and commence the rehabilitation process accordingly.	The point has been duly noted.
2)	Why has the rehabilitation list not been finalized as per the SRA list? Why has the compensation amount not been paid in accordance with the SRA survey? If the SRA survey has already been completed, the houses of all persons whose names appear in the said survey list should be acquired by the company in accordance with the applicable rehabilitation provisions. The company should clarify the reasons for the delay in taking action on the SRA survey and rehabilitation process. The company is seeking permission from the Government to	The point has been duly noted.

	increase its production capacity to 3.0 million tonnes. However, it appears that the company does not presently have sufficient land available for the proposed expansion. The mining activities have reached within approximately 200–300 metres of the village, thereby creating an increased risk to the safety, health and well-being of the local residents. Therefore, the company should immediately acquire the houses of all eligible persons whose names are included in the SRA survey list and expedite the rehabilitation process before proceeding with further expansion of the mining operations.	
3)	My agricultural land bearing Survey Nos. 46/2 and 46/3 is situated adjacent to the company's dumping area. Due to its proximity to the overburden dumping site, my agricultural land is being affected by air pollution, and the groundwater level in my well has also declined. As a result, my agricultural crops are suffering damage and I am incurring recurring losses. Therefore, I request the company to provide me with annual compensation of Rs. 1,00,000/- per acre towards the crop losses and other agricultural impacts caused by the project activities.	The point has been duly noted.
4)	The company has stated that plantation of approximately 241,000 trees has been proposed. However, the company should provide a detailed list of the species of trees proposed to be planted for the purpose of reducing ambient temperature and increasing oxygen levels in the surrounding area. Agricultural land belonging to local residents is situated in Somnala, Baranj Mokasa and Kiloni. The company should clarify when employment opportunities will be provided to the eligible local residents whose agricultural land is situated in these villages. No employment opportunities have reportedly been provided to the local residents of Baranj village so far. The company should therefore give due priority to eligible local residents from the project-affected villages in employment	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur, directed that adequate tree plantation be undertaken, the list prepared on the basis of the SRA survey be duly considered, and eligible local residents be provided employment opportunities.

	opportunities. As per the provisions of the 2013 land acquisition and rehabilitation law, until the rehabilitation of the entire village is completed, appropriate temporary arrangements should be made in respect of the affected houses so that such properties are not left unsecured or exposed to risk. If the rehabilitation process is not completed in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and agreed commitments, we may be constrained to approach the Hon'ble High Court by filing an appropriate petition against the company. In such an event, the responsibility for the consequences arising from non-compliance with the applicable rehabilitation requirements shall rest with the company, subject to determination by the competent authority or court.	
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27) 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)		The point has been duly noted.

28) Miss. Poonam Nandkishor Kayarkar, Project Affected Person, Bellora, Tal. Bhadrawati, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The company has provided bus transportation facilities for local students. However, students studying at Karmaveer Vidyalaya, Jena are reportedly not being permitted to travel in the said bus. The company is requested to clarify the reasons for this restriction and to consider extending the bus facility to all eligible local students. The company's efforts towards rehabilitation of residential houses are commendable. Similarly, the company proposes to acquire land belonging to Anganwadi centres and Zilla Parishad schools. It should therefore be	The point has been duly noted.

	clarified how compensation and alternative arrangements will be provided for such public and educational institutions. The company should increase the wages of local workers and give due attention to resolving their grievances and employment-related issues. Eligible local residents should be provided employment opportunities in accordance with their educational qualifications, skills and suitability for the available positions. The company should also clarify its policy regarding the rehabilitation and relocation of Government buildings and public institutions affected by the project. It should further be clarified why the company did not proceed with the rehabilitation of the affected persons when they were reportedly willing to relocate. Had the company undertaken their rehabilitation by providing all necessary basic amenities and facilities at the rehabilitation site, it would have substantially benefited the affected residents. The company is therefore requested to ensure that the rehabilitation of residential houses as well as affected public institutions is carried out in a planned, transparent and timely manner, with adequate compensation, alternative infrastructure and essential civic amenities.	
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29) Answers given by the Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	My name is Afroz, and I am the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of M/s Auro Infra Pvt. Ltd. At present, our mine is operating with a production capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum, and it is proposed to enhance the production capacity to 3.0 million tonnes per annum. For the last three years, all of you have been our partners and witnesses in the development and operation of this project. Whenever our project faced any difficulties, all of you extended your cooperation and support and assisted us in taking the project forward. In particular, we have received complete cooperation from the local community in establishing and developing our presence in the villages. We intend to continue seeking your cooperation and to remain a good neighbour for at least the next two generations. Since I have personally experienced similar circumstances, I understand the problems and concerns faced by the local residents. I would once again like to state that it is a matter of great honour and pride for me to be present before all of you today. We have heard all the questions, concerns and grievances raised by the

participants, and we are making every possible effort to resolve them to the maximum extent possible. I have understood today that employment and rehabilitation are two of the major concerns in this area. We will focus on maintaining continuous dialogue with the local residents and on identifying practical ways to resolve their problems and achieve the required targets at the earliest. Discussions will also be held with the local residents regarding how the land acquisition and rehabilitation processes can be simplified and expedited. I sincerely thank all the participants for presenting their views and concerns.

A question was raised as to how the expansion process was initiated without the company having acquired the entire 936 hectares of land required for the project. In this regard, the company has entered into an arrangement with a bank under which the rehabilitation compensation is directly credited to the bank accounts of the eligible beneficiaries through Demand Draft/Direct Banking arrangements, and the process has been expedited through a fast-track mechanism. Another issue raised was that the rehabilitation process had not been completed and that action had been taken in respect of only 127 houses. The company has acquired 127 houses, and Demand Drafts in respect of another 50 houses have already been prepared. The remaining house-related rehabilitation process is expected to be completed within the next one month. Another concern was that very limited CSR activities had been undertaken in Kiloni village. In this regard, an RO plant has already been installed in Kiloni village. Additional CSR activities will be undertaken in Kiloni during the next two to three months. Another issue raised was that untreated water was allegedly being discharged into rivers and natural drains. The company has initiated work for installation of a wastewater treatment plant. The treated wastewater will be utilized for irrigation purposes, wherever technically and legally permissible. Appropriate treatment and disposal arrangements will also be made for seepage water. Work on the wastewater treatment facility is already in progress, and treated water will be appropriately utilized. Detailed information regarding the environmental protection measures proposed to be implemented by the company will be provided in written form. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report already contains details of the proposed pollution-control and environmental protection measures. A copy of the relevant report/documentation will also be made available to the local residents. Regarding the demand for establishment of a hospital in the area, the company will coordinate with the other industries operating in the surrounding region and take appropriate steps for developing suitable healthcare facilities. With regard to the establishment/provision of a primary school, the matter will be discussed with the Rehabilitation Committee and appropriate action will be considered. An issue was also raised regarding employment and the demand that local residents should be given priority. I am personally focusing on ensuring that eligible local residents are appropriately included in the employment opportunities generated by the project. Local residents will be provided employment opportunities commensurate with their educational qualifications and skills. Unskilled local youth will also be provided with appropriate training so that they can acquire the necessary skills and become eligible for employment opportunities within the project. The principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work" will be examined, and an appropriate policy will be implemented by the company in this regard. Some time may be required for finalizing and implementing the policy. With regard to the applicability of the High Power Committee (HPC) wage structure, the company has already submitted two applications to the Labour Department. The company will implement the applicable provisions in accordance with the directions, recommendations and guidance received

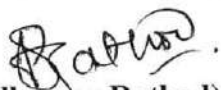
from the Labour Department. A question was also raised regarding whether the issues raised during the 2022 Environmental Public Hearing had been complied with. In this regard, a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and relevant compliance information will be provided, through which complete details regarding the status of compliance will be made available. Medical facilities are presently being provided to the workers of the company. The company is also in the process of formulating a policy regarding the manner in which appropriate medical facilities can be extended to contractual workers. A request was made that contracts arising from the project should be awarded to local persons. The company makes efforts to provide contracts to eligible local persons wherever feasible. The company will also discuss the matter with local residents and consider providing them with the necessary training to enable them to participate effectively in the contracting and tendering process. Written responses to the questions and concerns raised by the participants during the Public Hearing will be provided by the company. With regard to the SIA/Social Impact Assessment (SIA) survey, implementation and verification will be undertaken by the concerned Government authorities in accordance with the applicable procedure. Anganwadi workers and other local persons whose existing occupations or employment may be affected will be considered for suitable employment opportunities in the company, subject to their educational qualifications, skills, eligibility and applicable recruitment requirements. A meeting regarding the issues concerning Shri Dwivedi will be held on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. Further information regarding the SIA survey will be provided to the local residents at the company office. The company assures the local residents that the issues raised during the Environmental Public Hearing will be considered seriously and that appropriate measures will be undertaken, in consultation with the concerned authorities and local community, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and policies.

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 51 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



(Dr. Nitin R. Vyawahare)

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