

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
HELD FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
SUGARCANE CRUSHING CAPACITY FROM 5,000 TCD TO 10,000 TCD
IN RESPECT OF
M/S. DESHBHAKTA RATNAPANNA KUMBHAR PANCHAGANGA
SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD. (LEASED UNIT OF M/S. SHREE
RENUKA SUGARS LTD), GANGANAGAR, ICHALKARANJI,
TAL: HATKANANGALE, DIST: KOLHAPUR
(MAHARASHATRA STATE)**

Public hearing for proposed expansion of sugarcane crushing capacity from 5,000 TCD to 10,000 TCD in respect of M/s. Deshbhakta Ratnapanna Kumbhar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. (Leased Unit of M/s. Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd.) was held on 04.09.2018 at 11.30 P.M. at INTUC Hall, Sugar Factory site, Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

Following panel members were present for the public hearing:-

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| 1. | Hon'ble Shri. Sanjay Shinde, Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur. (Representative of District Collector, Kolhapur) | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri. Nagesh Lohalkar, Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur. (Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board) | - | Member |
| 2. | Shri Sanjay B. More, I/C Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board, Kolhapur. | - | Convener |

First of all, the convener of the environmental public hearing welcomed the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman started the public hearing. He informed that as per the Notification of MoEFCC, Government of India dated 14.09.2006, ammended on 01.12.2009, environmental public hearing is mandatory for the industries coming under the category 5(j). He further explained that participation of general public is important before granting environmental clearance to the industries coming under above schedule. He informed that MoEFCC, New Delhi has approved ToRs for proposed expansion and asked to prepare a draft EIA Report. M.P.C. Board had published a notice regarding this environmental public hearing in Marathi newspaper daily "Pudhari" and English newspaper "The Times of India" on 02.08.2018. The copies of EIA report and executive summary were made available for study of public at the office of District Collector, Kolhapur; District Industries Center, Kolhapur; Zilla Parishad Office, Kolhapur; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai; Head Office of

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M.P.C. Board, Mumbai; Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur; Tahsil Office Hatkanangale and Municipal Council, Ichalkarnji requesting concerned to submit their complaints, objections, suggestions etc. About 285 representations along with representation of Shri Uday Gaikwad, Member of Panchaganga River Pollution Committee appointed by Hon. High Court, Mumbai against the proposed project have been received at MPC Board. Also, about 177 representations have been received at MPC Board office which are in favour of the project.

The chairman informed the public that they can raise questions, objections, instructions etc. during the public hearing. He further informed that everyone would be given a chance to ask and present his say. No any decision in respect of the project by the public hearing committee would be given during hearing. Thereafter, he requested environmental consultant to give detailed presentation regarding proposed project.

Thereafter, Dr. Sangram Ghugare, Environmental Consultant of the proposed project presented following information with the help of slide show:-

Dr. Ghugare said that Renuka Sugars has taken this Desnbhakta Ratnapanna Kumbhar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd on Lease basis in the year 2010. Since then, the Karkhana has progressed considerably. He further informed that certain phase wise modifications in plant and machinery were done by the management because of which efficiency of the plant has been increased considerably as compared to earlier set up. He also stressed that management has improved the existing pollution control system and stress has been given on using minimum water, generating minimum effluents and thereby controlling the pollution. He showed slides depicting - satellite images, environmental settings & project siting, geographical location of the industry, photos of existing sugar factory set-up, information of promoters, purpose of the expansion, developments done by the sugar factory, project details (plot & built up areas; green belt; investments; working pattern, year of establishment etc.), raw materials & products details, manufacturing process with flow charts, water consumption & effluent generation, details of ETP with flow chart, sources of pollution (air, water, solid waste & hazardous wastes, noise) and their control, Environmental management Plan, existing & proposed green belt with photos of existing plantation, rain water harvesting, CSR, costing of pollution control infrastructure under EMP, EIA study & report structure including information on monitoring stations of primary data, attributes of monitoring (air, water, soil, noise, ecology & bio-diversity, socio-economy etc.), compliance with CREP norms, existing issues of problems and their control plans.

After above presentation, Shri Nagesh Lohalkar, Regional Officer and Member of public hearing committee told people to ask their questions, suggestions and queries whereafter he informed that the technical consultant would answer the same.

1. Shri Vidyasagar Patil, Member Farmer, Village Ingali, Dist: Kolhapur.

He asked that after expansion, will there be any noise pollution.

2. **Shri Naygonda Patil, Village Nandani, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He wanted to know how much would be the water requirement for existing as well as proposed expansion projects.

3. **Shri Raosaheb Kallapa Abdan, Village Rui, Tal.: Hatkanagale.**

What is the cost management of existing as well as proposed effluent treatment.

4. **Shri Patil, Farmer; Kabnoor, Tal.: Hatkanagale.**

He said that late Shri Ratnapanna Kumbhar had established this sugar factory and expressed that the operations of existing sugar factory are really good. Because of the sugar factory, the overall life style of farmers and workers has been uplifted and after expansion the financial situation of the farmers would also improve. Due to existance of Rivers Panchaganga, Warana and Dudhganga in the area, the farmers have changed their cultivation pattern towards sugarcane farming and for this expansion of this factory is really benefical.

5. **Sou Gita Jagannath Bhoi, Ganganagar, Tal.: Hatkanagale.**

For environment conservation, is there any plan for plantation of trees and their growing ?

6. **Sou. Sarita Patil, Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur.**

She stated that they live here in Ganganagar for last more than 25 years and they don't find any problem of bagasse.

7. **Sou. Anuradha Balkrishna Patil, former panchayat samite member, Hatkanagale, Kolhapur.**

She told that earlier there was huge problem of bagasse ash in our area. Now, not even one percent bagasse and ash problem is there and the people in the area welcome the proposed expansion project of the sugar factory.

8. **Shri Swapnil Satish Ketkale, Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur.**

He stated that Industry has to first concentrate on pollution control measures and only after that it should go for expansion of the factory. We don't have any problem for expansion but management should do something for pollution control and its abatement. The EIA report prepared is not complete and false one. It has been done by Ms. Equinox Environments (India) Pvt. Ltd. The Chairman & Managing Director of this firm is Dr. Sangram Ghugare. It is understood that he and his family are shareholders of this sugar factory and being a share holder he can not prepare such kind of EIA report. Hence, legal action should be taken against this firm for cheating people and Government and it should be blacklisted.

9. **Shri Mosin Mullani, Ichalkaranji, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He asked whether the documents that have been submitted before conducting public hearing are as per the guidelines of central government.

10. **Shri Pravin Shankar Kadam, Ichalkaranji, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He wanted the information on treatment to be given to wastewater coming out the ethanol plant.

11. **Shri Shabbir Gulam Kurane, Shirol, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He asked that from proposed expansion, will there be any air pollution and if it is then what measures are going to be taken by management.

12. **Shri Baban Ketkale, Kabnoor, Tal. Hatkananagale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He stated that he lives behind the sugar factory only. We have given our 40 acres of land for establishment of the sugar factory. We don't have any objection for the expansion project. However, he expressed fear that while going for expansion from 5000 TCD to 10000 TCD, the problem of dust emission from bagasse will increase areas namely Bharatmata colony, Ketkale Malaa, Irgond Patil Nagar, Indira Colony etc. The sugar factory is having ample place at the front and back sides, so we would request the industry that the bagasse yard should be located there and same should be delared by the chairman. We don't have objection for expansion.

13. **Shri Mahaveer Shrimant Pimple, Kabnoor, Tal. Hatkananagale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He stated that in today's public hearing meeting, it shluod be verified that how many people are workers from the industry and who are farmers. It is seen that the workers are allowed to sit at front side to support the project sanction. My farm is at Gat No. 908. The project consultant has stated that there shall be no pollution from the project. But you can come to my farm and see the fodder as well as bore well water and if you find that it is not polluted then I would give one acre of my land to the industry. Because of sugar factory, the water as well as other pollution is increased andsame should be first brought within 10 % and then only sugar factory expansion project should be implemented.

14. **Shri Shantinath Balkrishna Kamat, Kabnoor, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He said that we don't have any objection for expansion but sugar cane transporation is a major problem in this area. All vehicles travel on village roads only. There were many cases of accidents. Last season, one boy was killed in an accident of tractor. We made number of requests to make the cane transportation on bypass roads as there is traffic on existing main roads. There is record of certain accidents in

Shivjinagar Police Station. Due to expansion there shall be increase in traffic and the village roads are narrower. The industry should observe oneway traffic on roads obstructed on the lands taken from the farmers.

15. **Shri Ketkale, Village Sadlaga, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He asked about how many days expansion project will be in operation?

16. **Shri Sukumar Bhupal Patil, Village Danoli, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He expressed his views for doing something for generation of new employment from the expansion project.

17. **Shri Mahaveer Satappa Ligade, Kabnoor, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He insisted that the sugar factory expansion should be done so that entire cane available in his farm and surrounding areas could be taken for crushing immediately as there is less water available for irrigation in the village. He stated that the sugar cane of big farmers is harvested fastly under influence and the cane of small farmers with lower land holding remains behind in the farm for up to 16 months resulting into considerable losses. It was stated further that the farmers have to agitate for rate of cane and for harvesting of the cane in addition to waiting for one & half year for the bill payments.

18. **Shri Balkrishna Naadgonda Patil, Kabnoor, Tal. Hatkananagale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

Mr. Patil who has 12 Acres of farm near the sugar factory border stated that he has given land for establishment of the sugar factory. Further, he stated that the name of area – Ganganagar - where the factory is established was given in memory of his grandmother. He told that he is in favour of the sugar factory expansion project and informed that previously there was a big problem of falling of bagasse particles in the premises after the bagasse getting suspended in air from the bagasse yard. However, subsequent to Renuka Sugars arrival the problem of bagasse particles was effectively controlled and stopped.

19. **Shri Kalgonda Patil, Village Hasur, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He asked if it is possible to use the treated wastewater.

20. **Shri Balaso Kalgonda Patil, Village Takwade, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He expressed his full support for the sugar factory expansion project.

21. **Shri Anjum Papaso Sandi, Kabnoor, Tal. Hatkananagale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

It was appealed by Mr. Sanadi that there should not be resistance to the sugar factory expansion project. Although there is some pollution problem in the area due to the industry, the management should study

and reduce the same under expansion subsequent to which many unemployed people will get jobs.

22. **Shri Pravin Kadam.**

He asked about the measures being taken for controlling falling of bagasse particles on roads and ground.

23. **Shri Bapusaheb Annaso Chogule, Hasur, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He asked about type of pollution control equipment to be installed under expansion.

24. **Shri Pandharinath Raghunath Thanekar, R/o. Bharatmata Housing Society, Ichalkarnji, Dist. Kolhapur.**

Mr. Thanekar congratulated the management for taking up the expansion project and further stated that this sugar factory is a feather in the cap of Ichalkaranji town and stated that they don't have any objection for the expansion project. However, it was stated that development of somebody at the cost of comfort of others should not happen for which there shall be objection. It was told that in the Bharatmata Hsg. Society, there is problem of bagasse particles which should be controlled. Further an important point about noise due to release of steam was addressed with concern about troubles and effect on health of elderly, ill people and newborn as well as children. He further stated that the industry should take steps for controlling bagasse and noise which should be given in writing to them.

25. **Shri Shahenshaha Badshaha Mulla, former Sarpanch, Takwade, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He declared that there is full support for the sugar factory expansion project by stating that the pollution problem in the area got reduced by 75% than the earlier one. It was appreciated that the industry is going to install appropriate pollution control infrastructure and further insisted that due to big area of the industrial premises, plantation should be done with proper management.

26. **Shri Aslam Rasul Desai, member farmer, Village Jambhali, Tal.: Shirol, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He asked about impact on health of nearby resident people after the sugar factory expansion project.

27. **Shri Suresh Gadage, Indira Colony, Ichalkaranji, Dist. Kolhapur.**

Mr. Gadage said whether to believe on the information provided by the sugar factory during presentation on the expansion project. He stated that on 13 March 2013; PWD had given directions to remove bagasse yard. He enquired about steps taken by the management from year 2013 to 2015. If the management cannot take steps then what the revenue department and MPCB were doing. He further stated that by

showing the miraj do not cheat people because this is democracy and citizens are owners of the country and they won't tolerate any such actions. The industry should clarify for all that what it has done in last 5 years and if there is stay order of a court then the same should be shown to us. I am staying in Indira colony where there is problem of bagasse particles for which instructions were made to MPCB since year 2003 with warning to District Collector office about agitation. If any body has raised objections about the organization then I would congratulate him. We don't wish that this industry should be closed but want to know about steps to be taken for pollution control for which explanation should be given.

28. Shri Ajit Balaso Khude, Ganganagar, Ichalkarnji, Dist. Kolhapur.

He said that due to sugar factory expansion, the spentwash quantity is going to get double. Presently the spentwash from sugar factory is applied to nearby farms and the same water comes to a borewell in my farm where I have vegetables and 10 animals who don't drink the water. Due to expansion the pollution problem shall increase. During night effluent is discharged in farms and open yards through trucks. Some farmers purposefully take more effluent in their farms. In the Kabnoor stream, wells & bore wells, there is red colored water which should be stopped and then expansion should be done.

29. Shri. Huanna Jalindhar Majlekar, shareholder farmer, Village Alte, Tal: Hatkanangale, Dist: Kolhapur.

He said that the proposed expansion project will give encouragement and opportunities of new employment for the people. While going for expansion, development should be achieved and pollution should be reduced.

30. Shri Dhananjay Sukumar Gadage, Jawahar Nagar, Ichalkarnji, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

He told that project proponent himself agrees to the fact that bagasse falling problem is there then what MPCB and Revenue department actually do? CPCB has mentioned in its list that river Panchganga is among the most polluted rivers and this river is in 10 Km radius of the project. There is no such mention in the Report. CPCB has already not given permission for such projects earlier. So this project should also get rejected. During Co-gen plant establishment also, project proponent assured about implementation of green belt development plan, rain water harvesting plan etc. However, during last 5-6 years nothing has been done. He further stated that from project area, within half Kilometer distance, one Municipal Council having population more than there lakhs is not included in the EIA Report. There is no any mention of Ichalkarnji town and its beauty as well as pollution. These things should be considered.

31. Shri Swapnil Ketkale, Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur.

He stated that the information given during this public hearing presentation is incomplete and false and an action should be taken on the company. After taking appropriate action, we don't have any objection for expansion. There is a compost yard, well for storage of treated water, pumping station at the west side of sugar factory and at the south side, there is a bagasse yard. He further told that though the distillery unit is operated by M/s. Saideep Distillery, it is a part of sugar factory and in the EIA report nothing has been mentioned about it. There is one school near the distillery. No any such information has been given in the report. Also, he stated that since last six years, MPCB has taken actions against sugar factory and distillery. Infact distillery was shut down for one and half years. The ETP is not adequate. Oil & Grease Tank is at one place and Aeration Tank is at other place which is not adequate to treat the effluent resulting from excess crushing. There is no Collection Tank. There is provision of only primary and secondary units for the treatment of wastewater generated. First of all, ensure that sugar factory should provide full proof treatment for the wastewater and then only permission for expansion should be granted. There is no mention of supply of treated water for type of crops neither official layout of all the farms where effluent is used has been presented purposefully since the industry do not have adequate land for effluent disposal. As there is no land for disposal of treated effluent, the expansion project if started with double capacity; reuse of water shall not be possible. They tell that we will not use river water but we don't believe it as it is informed over last nine years. In the report, distance of industry from the river is mentioned as 3.5 Km which is false. About the Panchganga river pollution, one case is pending at Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai and for the same a committee has been formed. In the EIA, there is no comments from this committee. First it should be submitted and then we don't have any objection for expansion. On the south side of sugar factory, there is one bagasse storage area beyond one road which is illegal. It is not proper to have bagasse conveyor passing over the road due to which there is a problem of pollution with sufferings to the people. The said bagasse conveyor has been installed illegally for which PWD of Maharashtra Govt. has given orders for removal to the industry. For the same, the industry has not taken any action. In the premises of industry, it is seen that a stream is flowing along wall and when it gets clogged, the water flows & comes into surrounding area. Due to this, the wells and borewells in the region have become polluted which is not stated in the EIA report. You may come and see and test the water. About air pollution, no study has been done and false information is given. In the report, information is given about animals, birds and reptiles for which nothing is mentioned and information is incomplete. If such living beings are there, the expansion project can harm them. Hence, the expansion project should not be given permission or proper measures should be done by the industry where after we don't have any objection for expansion. For this, opinion of forest department may be taken. There is no 33% green belt in existence at industry on which false information is given. Due to non-observance of norms previously, action should be taken on industry and till adequate green belt is established and grown, the public hearing

should be held. Old trees in the industry are cut. There is no permission from land owner for disposal of wastewater. No effluent and solid waste from the industry are processed. Hence, action should be taken on the industry. The red category industry should have zero effluent and zero waste disposal norms and under such situation, effluent treatment in old infrastructure is improper. It is stated in EIA report that green belt shall be developed. This means there is no previous green belt in the industry. The industry should be allowed the expansion only after taking all steps. It is stated in the EIA report that the river could be polluted due to discharge of effluent in it. Wrong information about impact on streams are given. It is necessary that the effluent should not be discharged into river. It is stated in the report that in area of 10 Km, there are no historic places or heritage sites which is false information. We are giving a statement about same on which enquiry should be done.

32. **Dr. Pandurang Ramchandra Biranje, former Chairman of Bharatmata Co-operative Housing Society, Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He stated that there is nuisance of air pollution, water pollution & noise pollution. For many years we have been telling to the management about same but they are giving different reasons. Hence, a complaint was made to MPCB but no cognizance was taken. On behalf of Bharatmata Sahakari Gruhnirman Sanstha, Ganganagar, Ichalkarnji, Tal. Hatkanangale Dist. Kolhapur., we have sent one letter through RPAD. The Bharamata Sanstha has objection for the expansion project till all the problems are duly solved.

33. **Shri Vinayak Badve, Bharatmata Co-op. Housing Society, Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.**

He told that few days ago I took a bore well in my house. Initially upto 20 feet, there was reddish and salty water. Subsequently, the bore was taken upto 250 feet and when the water was tested, it was told that same is not for drinking. Due to discharge of water from the industry outside the premises, we do not get good water for drinking. During transportation of molasses, sometimes the molasses gets spilled on road and vehicles get slipped on it causing accidents. Hence, we feel that the molasses should not be transported on main roads. There is trouble due to steam noise and bagasse falling on road. Due to this, the industry should give in writing that such things will not happen and only after this project may be started.

34. **Shri Shankar Bhojraj Udapi, B class member, Ichalkaranji.**

I thank the management of M/s. Renuka Sugars Ltd. for expansion project. In year 1957, when the industry was established, there was less population in the region. Now, the population has increased. It is requested that the expansion should be carried out while observing norms of pollution control.

35. Shri Uday Baliram Gite, Sarpanch Kabnoor, Tal. Hatkanangale, Dist. Kolhapur.

Subsequent to establishment of the industry, the population in surrounding villages went on increasing gradually. I congratulate the management of industry because they have appointed M/s. Equinox Company, one of the best consultants having National Accreditation, for the expansion project & its presentation. The organization has given minute details of each and every thing after detailed study. I want to state here that due to expansion there shall not be traffic problem as the vehicles going in & coming out shall be properly managed. As far as the complaint letters are concerned, it is a request to the Chairman of Panel to verify the signatures put on complaint letters with those on the pan cards of the signing persons and then the truth will be clear.

After the session of questions & suggestions, Shri Nagesh Lohalkar, Member, on behalf of Chariman of Public Hearing Panel, requested environmental consultant of the project to clarify the questions and queries by the public. Here, the chairman of public hearing panel informed that 273 letters have been received about the expansion project and cognizance of the same has been taken. It is further stated that the public hearing panel takes hearing and submits its proceedings with CD to the Central Govt. for further decision on the project and as such this panel do not take any decision about the project. Hence, there should not be any misunderstanding among the people.

Dr. Sangram Ghugare, Environmental Consultant of the proposed expansion project, furnished information and details on questions & queries raised by the public. He informed that the first question was about noise pollution and for the same as stated during presentation, actions and mitigation measures shall be implemented as mentioned in the EIA report. About noise pollution due to steam release in the existing industry, he told that he had just discussed with the management and commitment is being given here about its control during the coming season.

He further told that after expansion there will be 25 to 30% reduction in generation of wastewater from the industry which is a very positive aspect. He further informed that for the use of treated effluent, agreements have been made for 165 Acres w.r.t disposal of the treated effluent. It was also mentioned that if each & every paper in support of primary and secondary data is to be enclosed in the EIA report then the report itself will be a 2000 page document. Dr. Ghugare stated that the draft EIA report submitted for public hearing has been prepared as per the norms & stipulations of EIA Notification of MoEFCC, New Delhi with due responsibility about the data and information therein. It was stated that Equinox is a high ranking accredited consultant organization in the country and if any false & misleading information is presented then accreditation of the consultant could get cancelled. He further commented that those who made charges against the report and the industry as well as consultant and have made an appeal to file cases against them have done so out of prejudice that to without studying the submitted EIA report properly as well as adequately. Dr. Ghugare informed that the sugar factory has been awarded five star rating, by MPCB, for its performance in controlling air pollution while always maintaining quality of stack emissions well below the MPCB norms. The Industry has already provided online continuous monitoring

systems for effluent & stack emissions control and parameters by these systems are continuously under surveillance of CPCB and MPCB. He stressed that the points raised during public hearing w.r.t. panchaganga river pollution, pollution of streams & ground water have already been mentioned in the EIA report and nowhere there false information is provided. Infact, in addition to the sources of pollution in the industry and their impact on environment; appropriate mitigation measures and their action plan have been given. It was mentioned that presently 15% green belt has been developed by the industry so far and remaining green belt of 18% shall be done in coming 5 years under the expansion project. He further stressed that it was never disagreed that there is fall of bagasse particles. Infact, in an action plan in the EIA report, detailed mitigation measures have been provided to control suspension of bagasse particles from the storage yard as well as for bagasse falling from the conveyor belt. The industry is also well aware of the bagasse particles problem and the management also has taken it seriously. There is a planning towards shifting of the bagasse conveyor which will take some time as it is not possible to shift the infrastructure, at once, especially in light of ensuing crushing season. Moreover, the matter is in court now. Nevertheless, the management has taken a positive decision for its shifting and steps shall be taken accordingly. Despite this, the bagasse conveyer belt has been encased from all sides to curb bagasse falling. Moreover, fire alarm system has been provided in the entire bagasse conveyor belt infrastructure in addition to fire fighting arrangement like sprinklers and water jets so as to avoid any accident due to fire. The charge against consultant that he is a share holder of the sugar factory is again wrong. Dr. Ghugare informed that he is not share holder of the sugar factory neither he is an employee. As a chartered engineer, he is working as CMD of Equinox Company. While answering the employment potential question, Dr. Ghugare informed that subsequent to expansion there shall be good opportunities for employment.

Thereafter, the point of traffic management was addressed. It was stated that the industry has dedicated staff & roads and the traffic management practices are being implemented presently. It was assured that this procedure shall be further carefully managed with a planning so as to avoid any accidents. This point was considered during EIA studies and was properly addressed and incorporated in the EIA report. In spite of this and in light of nature of present report which is a draft EIA report, while making the final EIA report all the points in public hearing shall be duly incorporated. Further, it was stated that the industry and consultant have to present an action plan in the final EIA report on issues raised during public hearing. Also, it was informed that all the points, questions and queries in the 273 letters received by MPCB are required to be duly clarified and explained and the final EIA report is made available on Government website whereafter one can also complain to MoEFCC; New Delhi. It was informed that this is a very transparent procedure.

Dr. Ghugare said that during presentation, I have given all the information on pollution control infrastructure. It was mentioned by somebody that first the pollution control system should be installed and then only the expansion project could be implemented. However, it was stated by the consultant that already the Industry has installed ESP and have upgraded ETP appropriately under the existing set-up. Infact, for further improving the

efficiency; the ESP is being fitted with third field for which purchase order is issued and work is in progress. Anybody can visit and see this on site. Thus, before start of the project; ESP and ETP shall be totally completed and same will be fully functional. The works towards control of noise, air and water pollution shall be totally done before expansion project. The point wrt spentwash was answered by stating that this effluent is not generated in sugar factory and it is wastewater of a distillery. It was mentioned that the distillery unit of sugar factory has been duly stated in the EIA report while addressing all relevant issues at appropriate places. It was also mentioned that in the presentation, rain water harvesting issue has been duly addressed. It was assured that once the bagasse yard modification works get completed then whatever remaining trouble with the bagasse particles shall be completely gone. It was requested by Dr. Ghugare to the Industry management that they should take faster steps towards conveyor belt shifting process.


Shri P. M. Patil, former Chairman of the sugar factory, welcomed officers & staff of M.P.C.B as well as all citizens present for the hearing & addressed some issues raised. While informing that this sugar factory is the very first factory in entire Kolhapur district, it was told that the command area lies in 102 surrounding villages. He told that it is policy of the management that while running industry there should not be any trouble to residents of Kabnur, Ichalkaranji as well as other villages in the vicinity. Further, it was highlighted that Late Dr. Ratnapanna Kumbhar founded this sugar factory with the one and the only purpose of well being of farmers as well as common people and today also the management is following his teachings & principles. In last 50 years, about three talukas in the region have experienced total transformation due to this sugar factory and all leaders in the Kolhapur district have come up under the guidance of Late Dr. Ratnapanna Kumbhar. He further appealed for sharing of views of people about works of pollution control to be implemented. It was specifically told by Shri Patil that MPCB will give crushing licence only to the fully complying sugar factories. He informed that earlier there was some trouble due to bagasse particle & ash in the region which was effectively controlled by the Renuka Sugars Ltd. subsequent to their taking up of the plant. Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd. is a reputed name in the sugar industry and they have experts in the pollution control areas. Further it was told that recently Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd. has been merged with world giant 'Wilmar Company' and as such he assured that they will run the industry by strictly following all the rules & regulations of pollution control without having any blot as defaulter.

About the traffic management, Shri Patil told that Industry has already constructed a road network in the area without taking any money from farmers and thereunder Rui to Ketkale road planning for oneway has been done with survey and consultation with the traffic police department. A proposal towards declaration of one-way & road categorization is pending at the district collector office and he requested Shri Sanjy Shinde saheb to clear the same at the earliest. It was also informed that the road above which the conveyor belt is passing is in the premises owned by the sugar factory which can be verified from 7/12 extract. He told that he has also requested the Renuka Management to take bagasse conveyor on one side of the road and further assured that they will do it positively. Shri Patil also communicated that they have a policy towards well being of farmers and workers. Due to expansion project the cane cutting labour will also be benefited and there shall be increase in industrial


related activities in this area. He stated that he himself is willing & active towards control of pollution as well as in overcoming difficulties of local residents and the industry. However, he told that since any good thing requires good time to deliver positive results, there has to be patience & cooperation from all the concerned. Finally, Shri Patil assured that the expansion project shall be implemented only after 100% observing the norms of pollution control.

Lastly, Mr: Sanjay Shinde; Chairman of Public Hearing panel thanked all participants for their involvement and co-operation in conducting the public hearing peacefully. Thereafter, he declared that the meeting was concluded.

The copies of representations received during the environmental public hearing are enclosed herewith.


(Shri Prashant Gaikwad)
Sub Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur
cum
Convener


(Shri Nagesh Lohalkar)
Regional Officer, MPC
Board, Kolhapur
cum
Member


(Shri Sanjay Shinde)
Additional District Magistrate,
Kolhapur
cum
Chairman