

## MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING

### MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED CAPACITY EXPANSION OF SUGAR FACTORY FROM 2,500 TCD to 6,000 TCD OF M/S BHIMASHANKAR SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD., DATTATRAYNAGAR, AT POST – PARGAON VIA AWASARI BK, TAL – AMBEGAON, DIST – PUNE

An Environmental Public Hearing for proposed expansion of sugar factory from 2,500 TCD to 6,000 TCD in the existing unit of M/s Bhimashankar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Dattatrayanagar, At Post-Pargaon Via Awasari BK, Tal-Ambegaon, Dist-Pune was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 11.00 AM in the premises of sugar factory.

Following were the panel members as per Board's Office Order No.E-63 of 2017 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B - 2827, dated 15-07-2017 :-

- |  |   |                  |
|--|---|------------------|
| 1) Shri Rajendra Muthe,<br>Additional District Magistrate - Pune<br>(Representative of District Magistrate,<br>Pune) | - | <b>Chairman,</b> |
| 1) Shri J. S. Salunkhe,<br>Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune<br>(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai)                          | - | <b>Member</b>    |
| 2) Dr. H. D.Gandhe,<br>Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II,<br>MPCB, Pune  | - | <b>Convener</b>  |

Dr. H. D. Gandhe, Convener of the public hearing welcomed all who were present in large number and informed

that as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, Gol) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. M.P.C. Board has received proposal from M/s Bhimashankar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., At Post – Pargaon, Tal – Ambegaon, Dist-Pune for proposed expansion in production of sugar from 2,500 TCD to 6,000 TCD at the existing site of the industry.

Convener of the public hearing further informed that the aim of conducting public hearing is to make aware local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and environment management plan of the unit.

He further informed that as per said Notification, one month in advance, public notice was published in the newspapers in Daily 'Loksatta' for Marathi and in 'The Indian Express' for English on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. The copies of EIA report and Executive Summary were made available at various notified offices of Government viz District Magistrate Office, Pune; Zilla Parishad, Pune; District Industries Centre, Pune; Tahsil Office-Ambegaon; Grampanchayat office at Pargaon via Avasari BK, Tal-Ambegaon, Dist-Pune; Sub Regional Office, Pune-II, MPCB, Pune; Regional Office, MPCB, Pune; Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai; Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and Zonal Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEF & CC, Gol), Nagpur. It was appealed to send any objections / suggestions regarding the project. The Convener further informed that not a single written objection is received by the M.P.C. Board. With the permission of Chair, he informed the project representative to explain the project information to the audience.

The project consultant with the help of projector briefly explained about the project to the audience. Afterwards,

Convener of the Public Hearing Panel requested the public to ask for their doubts, suggestions if any about the project.

**Details of Questions & Querries raised by the public and answers given by project representatives is summarized as below :-**

**1)Shri Ashok Labade, Jarkarwadi –**

How much will be the cane crushing in current season?

Project proponent informed that expected cane crushing in current season is 6 to 6.5 Lakh tonnes.

**2)Shri Santosh Walse, Nirgudsar –**

He asked for tree plantation drive in current year.

Project officials informed that nearly 750 pits have been dug and within a week's time, saplings will be planted in it.

**3)Shri Ajit Wavhal, Shingave Pargaon –**

Whether additional land is available for expansion?

Project proponent informed that expansion will be carried in the existing premises and no additional land will be required.

**4)Shri Pandurang Dadabhan, Walunj, Pondhewadi –**

Whether new stack will be installed in expansion project?

Project consultant informed that no new stack will be installed.

**5)Shri Shivaji Pachpute, Jarkarwadi -**

There is always tree plantation drive on 5<sup>th</sup> June and saplings are planted in the project area and also at outside area. But after few days, it is observed that saplings are either vanished or rotten. Hence what steps will be taken for preservation of saplings and green belt development?

Project officials informed that drip irrigation system is already installed in the project area. Most of the saplings will be covered by round wire fencing. Project Proponent does take preservation measures and hence there is lush greenery in the project area.

6) **Shri Ashok Dhobale, Shingare-**

Whether there will be additional generation of effluent due to expansion? What are the provisions for its treatment?

Project proponent informed that existing Effluent Treatment Plant will be upgraded upto capacity of 1300 CMD to treat the additional effluent quantity due to expansion of sugar cane crushing. The work of upgradation of ETP is already started.

7) **Shri Dilip Lokande, Pargaon -**

Due to expansion in the sugar crushing, almost all the sugar cane crop cultivated in the vicinity can be sold in the factory. Expansion of project will create employment opportunities. The local unemployed youths will get job opportunities. Before the inception of the factory, there used to be one day bazaar in a week in our village. Now, every day there is bazaar which starts from 8.00 o'clock in morning and finishes in the night. Due to expansion, there will be increase in socio-economic development of the area. Hence local people support the expansion.

8) **Shri Subhash Labade, Jarkarwadi -**

Project management has already provided toilet blocks to workers and daily wages laborers in the project place. But it is observed that most of the time, the workers and daily wages laborers do defecate in the open area, due to which nearby villagers suffers giddiness and bad odour. Hence he suggested to take necessary steps to overcome this situation.

Project officials informed that the project is declared as first project throughout India for extending the toilet block facilities to daily wages labors and workers. The project administration has already constituted a separate Cell for keeping the project area clean and the cell is working efficiently. Reverse Osmosis Membrane System is already installed in the project site to provide pure and safe drinking water to the workers.

9) **Shri Ashok Dhobale, Pargaon -**

What measures are adopted for control of air pollution?

Project Consultant informed that Electro Static Precipitator is installed which arrests stack emissions with 99.9% efficiency and wet scrubber is also provided to boiler. Online Continuous Monitoring System is installed to the stack.

**10)Shri Rahul Bhurke, Kathapur –**

Sugar cane transportation from farms to sugar factory is through bullock carts which has resulted in increased road accidents. Therefore, needful action to prevent road accidents should be taken.

Project Proponent informed that red tapes are provided to bullock's horns. Also reflectors, stickers are installed to bullock carts.

Shri Salunkhe, Member of Public Hearing Committee opined that as per the reports, it can be concluded that the efforts are not made by the project proponent to guide local farmers for adopting modern methods to increase in the sugar cane crop, planting modern seeds under Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme. It is observed that the project proponent has not contacted Agriculture College, Pune; Rahuri Krishi Vidyapeeth and Agriculture Department of Govt. of Maharashtra for implementing the Awareness Programme for increase of production. Now what will be future plan for adopting these methods?

Project Proponent informed that the management of the project has an agreement with Vasantdada Sugar Institute which extends training and awareness programme to local farmers. Previously such schemes were implemented by the factory for the local farmers in the name of Late Founder Chairman Dattatraya Walse Patil in which modern seeds and drip irrigation system is provided in the fields of local farmers. The project proponent has already developed "Bio-Fertiliser Laboratory " from which fertilizer is provided to local farmers. The project proponent planned to extend facility of interest free loan upto Rs.50,000/- per hector. The scheme may be implemented soon.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee Shri Rajendra Muthe made a suggestion that though the project proponent planned to appoint "Environment, Health & Safety Officer," it will be beneficial and practical to constitute a separate "Environment Cell" instead of appointing an officer. From the past experience, it can be concluded that the project proponent is wholeheartedly implementing the environment protection and socio-economic development schemes in the area.

Chairman of the committee while concluding the meeting appealed project proponent to carry the socio economic development work under CSR Fund. He thanked local people for participation and extending co-operation for smooth conduct of public hearing.

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee informed that the suggestions, comments made in this meeting will be incorporated in the proceedings and the report will be submitted to Government.

The public hearing was concluded with vote of thanks.



**(Rajendra Muthe)**

Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee and  
Additional District Magistrate, Pune



**(J. B. Salunkhe)**  
Member and  
Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Pune



**(Dr. H. D. Gandhe)**  
Convener and  
Sub Regional Officer,  
Pune-II, MPCB, Pune