

## Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SUGAR CANE CRUSHING CAPACITY FROM 8,500.0 TCD TO 11,000.0 TCD (i.e. 2,500,0 TCD); MOLASSES BASED DISTILLERY FROM 60.0 KLPD TO 150.0 KLPD (i.e. 90.0 KLPD) AND CO-GEN PLANT FROM 38.0 MW TO 49.0 MW (11.0 MW) IN THE EXISTING UNIT OF M/S VITTHALRAO SHINDE SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD., GANGAMAI NAGAR, PIMPALNER, TAL-MADHA, DIST-SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA.

The public hearing for proposed expansion of sugar cane crushing capacity from 8,500.0 TCD to 11,000.0 TCD (i.e.2,500.0 TCD); Molasses Based Distillery from 60.0 KLPD to 150,0 KLPD (i.e. 90.0 KLPD) and Co-gen Plant from 38.0 MW to 49.0 MW (11.0 MW) in the existing unit of M/s Vitthalrao Shinde Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Gangamai Nagar, Pimpalner, Tal-Madha, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at 11.00 am on the site of the said industry.

Following were the panel members as per Board's Office Order No. E-50 of 2018 under letter no. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-2398 Dated 25-06-2018:-

- 1) Shri. Sanjay Teli,  
Add. District Magistrate, Solapur  
(Representative of District Magistrate,  
Solapur) - **Chairman**
- 2) Miss. Sindhu Kapre,  
Representative of Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Pune  
(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai) - **Member**
- 3) Shri N. S. Awatade,  
I/c. Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Solapur - **Convener**

3

Shri. Awatade, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee, company officials and public 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. MoEFCC, Gol) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the Schedule of the said Notification. The Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur was in receipt of application of M/s Vitthalrao Shinde Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Gangamai Nagar, Pimpalner, Tal-Madha, Dist-Solapur, Maharashtra for their proposed expansion of sugar cane crushing capacity from 8,500.0 TCD to 11,000.0 TCD (i.e. 2,500.0 TCD); Molasses Based Distillery from 60.0 KLPD to 150.0 KLPD (i.e. 90.0 KLPD) and Co-gen Plant from 38.0 MW to 49.0 MW (11.0 MW) in the existing unit premises only. The Convener further informed that, as per EIA Notification, 2006, the project falls under Category 1 (d), 5 (j) & 5 (g).

Convener of the meeting further informed that the aim of conducting public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the process and they should know the developmental activities and environment management plan of the unit. The project proponent had submitted prescribed application along with pre-feasibility report to the 18<sup>th</sup> Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry-2) Meeting held during 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 for preparation of EIA/EEMP report. The Committee prescribed certain additional TOR along with standard TOR. As per said Notification, 30 days advance public notice was published in the local newspapers in Daily Sakal and Daily Lokmat in Marathi and English language on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

He informed that a copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available at various offices of government i.e. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Western Zone Office, Nagpur; District Magistrate Office, Solapur; Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur; District Industries Centre, Solapur; Tahasildar, Tahasil Office-Madha, Dist, Solapur; Grampanchayat offices, Pimpalner, Nimgaon, Tambave, Sapatane, Tal-

Madha, Dist- Solapur, Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur; Regional Office, MPCB, Pune; Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai and on the website of MPCB. The public in general were appealed to send any objection / suggestion regarding the above project. The Convener further informed that not a single objection is received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur against the project. He appealed Chairman of the Committee to allow starting the proceedings.

Shri Sanjay Teli, Chairman of Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project proponent to explain the details of pollution control devices and environment management plan of the project in local language Marathi. He also appealed general public to give objection / suggestion if any about the project after their technical presentation.

The Environment Consultant appointed by the company has given the presentation of the expansion project and Environment Management Plan in detail.

The Public Hearing Committee appealed general public to raise any objection or give suggestion regarding the proposed expansion of the project.

**Details of Questions & Queries raised by the public and answers given by Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent is summarized as below :-**

1) **Shri. Hanumant Narhari Chavan**, resident of Chavanwadi, former Vice Sarpanch asked about the treatment of excess effluent which will be generated due to the expansion of the project.

**Ans:** Environment Consultant of the project informed that the project proponent has installed modern equipments in the production activities; hence they have succeeded in reducing the effluent quantity. The present Effluent Treatment Plant is well sufficient to treat the excessive effluent which will be produced after expansion. The treated effluent of sugar factory will be used for irrigation in sugar factory premises for bene plot & plantation. The distillery effluent /spent wash will be concentrated in evaporator & then totally incinerated in boiler. The project will be Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD).

2) **Shri Mahadev Ghadge**, resident of Akole Khurd, Sarpanch of Akole Khurd grampanchayat asked about the air pollution control measures of the project after expansion.

**Ans:** Environment Consultant of the project informed that previously there was chimney of the height of 65 mtrs. Now, considering the expansion and increase in the air pollution load, a chimney of the height of 85 mtrs will be erected in the distillery unit. For sugar unit, the advanced air pollution control technology i.e. Electro Static Precipitator (i.e.ESP), which gives 98 to 99% efficiency is already installed for two boilers which are in working condition & proposed boiler will also be connected with ESP for emission control.

3) **Shri Nagesh Khatke**, resident of Tambave village and Member of Tambave Grampanchayat, asked whether project proponent has planned any measures to minimize the water quantity in the production activities.

**Ans:** It is informed that the project proponent has already installed modern equipments in the production activities to minimize water requirement. Hence the quantity of effluent is also decreased. The condensate water after treatment in Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU) will be totally recycled in the process and hence the requirement of water for the production activities will be minimized.

4) **Shri Vikas Vinayakrao Shinde**, resident of Nimgaon, Temburni, Dist-Solapur opined that the project proponent proposes to burn the total spent wash, but local farmers should get the press mud and compost.

**Ans:** Environment Consultant informed that as per the policy of Govt. of India, the project should be ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) project. Hence the total spent wash will have to burn in the incineration. But if the Members i.e. local farmers demands for compost 20% of total spent wash can be used for compost as already full-fledged facilities for the composting are ready for existing plant and thus compost will be made available to local farmers.

5) **Shri Ravindra Sampatrao Shinde**, resident of Nimgaon, Temburni, Dist-Solapur asked the benefits of expansion of project to Members of the Project. It is informed that due to expansion cost of the production will be reduced and

the higher rate can be given to local farmers while purchasing the sugar cane from them. There will also increase in job opportunities in the project. The project proponent does carry social development activities. Hence there will development towards sustainable development.

6) **Shri Satish Aware**, resident of Pimpalner village and Vice Chairman of Pimpalner grampanchayat asked about the benefits to the general public due to expansion of the project.

**Ans:** Environment Consultant informed that due to expansion, there will be need to purchase extra sugar cane. Hence the local farmers who have to sale their sugar cane outside the area can sale their sugar cane in this project only.

7) **Shri Manoj Bibhishan Chintaman**, resident of Akole Khurd, Dist-Solapur asked about the proposed plan of rain water harvesting. It is informed that bore wells in the project are already charged. It is planned that the total roof water of the project and colony in the rainy season will be preserved. The project proponent has erected the tank of 8.0 Crore liters.

8) **Shri Rajaram Nivrutti Thorat**, resident of Temburni asked about the measures of health and safety to the workers of the project.

**Ans:** It is informed that strict guidelines of the Government for health and safety are totally followed for the workers in the project. The hand gloves and gum boots are provided. The employees working near the boiler or near the sound producing equipments are provided with ear-muffs. Periodical health camps for workers and their families are arranged from time to time. The fire fighting system is installed as per the guidelines of the Government. The mock drill is conducted periodically in the project premises. Also training is extended to workers as per time schedule to face any eventuality. The project proponent has already paid the installment for Workers' Health Insurance Scheme in which all workers are covered. The Reverse Osmosis (RO) system is provided and its water is provided for drinking workers to all in the plant & colony.

9) **Shri Dipak Tukaram Patil**, resident of Akole Khurd, Tal - Madha remarked that as the production of sugar cane is increased in the area, the crushing capacity of the project should also be increased. He further informed that the project proponent gives reasonable rate for the sugar cane in the area. He requested the Public Hearing Committee to sanction the proposal for expansion/capacity for sugar cane crushing from 8,500 TCD to 11,000 TCD, (i.e. 2,500 TCD); Molasses based distillery from 60 KLPD to 150 KLPD (i.e. 90 KLPD) and Co-gen plant from 38 MW to 49 MW (i.e. 11 MW).

10) **Shri Kumar Ghadge**, resident of Upalvate village asked following questions:-

a) What is the present's status of fire fighting system and whether periodical mock drill is carried in the project?

b) During the crushing season, while handing the sugar cane in the factory, the sugar cutting workers do bring their domestic animals in the project area. Whether Garbage Disposal & Management System is adopted in the project or not,

c) As per the Disaster Management Plan, whether Public Redressal System is operative?

**Ans:** It is informed that the Fire Fighting System is in operation and periodical mock drill is carried as per the guidelines of the Government. Further it is answered that while handing the sugar cane in the factory, normally trucks and trailers are brought. The use of bringing animals is minimized now a day. The project proponent has already created a different cell for scientific disposal of animal garbage. For public redressal system the alarm system for any eventuality is in operation and periodical training is extended.

10) **Shri Tukaram Balasaheb Dhavale**, resident of Sapatane (Temburni), Member of Zilla Parishad, Solapur informed that since last 18 years, the project proponent is carrying various social development activities. The local youths have got job opportunities in the project. The periodical health camps are conducted in the vicinity. The financial help to the nearby educational institutions have given an opportunity to local youths to complete their

education. The expansion will be beneficial to local farmers also. He further appealed to carry green drive in the nearby area.

Chairman of the Committee Shri Teli further asked project proponent to inform the activities carried under CSR Fund (Corporate Social Responsibility) Fund. It is informed that since last 18-20 years, the project proponents do undertake various social welfare programs. Periodical health camps are arranged, financial aid is provided to educational institutions of the vicinity. The financial aid is provided to the Jalyukta Shivar, the scheme which is wholeheartedly adopted by the Government of Maharashtra. The project proponent also do undertake Samuhik Vivah Karyakrama (i.e. Collective Marriage Ceremony) of which many poor couples do participate. The couples are provided some utensil for the daily activities. Now the project proponent proposes to ear-mark Rupees 4.05 Crores for the CSR Fund.

Shri Awatade, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee opined that after expansion, the total industrial effluent will be generated is shown as 904.0 M3 and as per the land available with the project proponent, it seems that some additional land will be required. He asked whether bi-lateral agreement will be made for getting additional land. He further asked that as per the guidelines, the project proponent has to ear-mark and develop 33% green belt of the open land. Convener further asked whether project proponent has planned any scheme of green belt development outside the project to fulfill of the aim of our Government of making Harit Maharashtra i.e. Green Maharashtra. It is informed that the project proponent carries green belt development in the nearby villages regularly. The saplings of Mango, Coconut and Chikoos are brought from Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli and it is distributed to members i.e. workers of the sugar factory. Most farmers of the vicinity do not require purchasing mangoes, coconuts, chikoos from the market, as their own home-yards are giving enough above fruits production.

Shri Sanjay Teli, Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee opined that the figure of the total plot of the project area seems to be incorrect. He informed project proponent to verify the figure. Chairman and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee appealed general public to raise any question

or give suggestion regarding the expansion of the project. As there was no response, Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee informed Convener to conclude the meeting.

Shri. Awatade, Convener of the Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending the meeting and raising their doubts. He informed that the objections and suggestions made in the meeting will be inserted in the minutes of the meeting the report will be sent to the Expert Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Govt. of India (MoEFCC, GoI) for their consideration & with the permission of the Chairman, he declared that the public hearing meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended with extending thanks to the Chair.

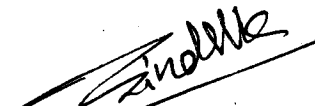
The proceeding of the hearing starts at 11.30 am, & finished at 01.30 pm.



**(Sanjay Teli)**  
Chairman of the Committee and  
Addl. District Magistrate,  
Solapur



**(N. S. Awatade)**  
Convener  
and I/c Sub Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Solapur



**(Miss. Sindhu Kapre)**  
Field Officer & Representative  
of Regional Officer,  
MPCB, Pune