

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PROPOSED WARDHA - MUMBAI ACCESS CONTROLLED EXPRESSWAY PROPOSED BY M/S MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., FROM SELDOH TO PIMPALGAON OF 60.95 KM LENGTH (PACKAGE-I)**

The public hearing for proposed Nagpur - Mumbai access controlled expressway proposed by M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd., from Seldoh to Pimpalgaon of 60.95 Km Length Wardha District (Package-I) was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 at 11.30 hrs at Vikas Bhavan Near Mahatma Gandhi Stature, Dist-Wardha, which is close proximity to the project area under the Chairmanship of Shri Mangesh Joshi, Additional District Magistrate (A representative nominated by the District Collector-Wardha). Shri Nagesh Lohalkar, Regional Officer, MPCB, Nagpur was the Member of the Public Hearing Panel and Shri Kiran Hasabnis, Sub Regional Officer - II, MPC Board, Nagpur act as a Convener. The public hearing started at 11.30 hrs with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel. Attendance of the people present during the public hearing is attached as Annexure -"I."

**BACKGROUND :-**

The Govt of India (GoI) has planned 10 (Ten) world class Express Highways in order to boost the road infra-structure. Simultaneously, the Govt. of Maharashtra has planned Nagpur-Mumbai Expressway (NMEW) for diversion and redistribution of heavy traffic on existing corridors. The proposed NMEW is being implemented by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd., which will pass through ten districts from Vidharbha through Marathwada to Konkan region.

The project intends to develop a six lane Expressway with paved shoulders from Nagpur to Mumbai in the State of Maharashtra. This six-lane Nagpur-Mumbai Prosperity Corridor has a ROW of 120 mtr. And will bring the travel time between the two cities of Nagpur to Mumbai from 16 hrs to 06 hrs. This prosperity corridor will pass through all the five Regions that make up Maharashtra Vidarbha, North Maharashtra, Marathwada, Western Maharashtra and Konkan thus linking developed and developing towns. The project ensures greater regional connectivity and equitable development as it passes through Vidharbha, North Maharashtra, Marathwada, Western Maharashtra and the Konkan Region. It also promises to open new avenues of economic and social growth along the drought-hit districts of Vidharbha and Marathwada.

This Prosperity Corridor (NMEW) is being designed for sustainable growth with emphasis on agro-industries in rural and underdeveloped districts of Maharashtra. The project is so massive that it will open up multiple sectors including township along the expressway emerging as a self-reliant model. From textile sector to IT hubs, each NODE will have its distinct character developed to tackle the local requirements of livelihood of the people and growth. An equal opportunity to grow and develop is the only way for a region to ensure a prosperous demography. Cities have concentrated employment opportunities, skilled work force, financial independence and the infra structure to keep the demand-supply cycle intact. Most of the needs of the urban areas in terms of food and electricity are sourced from the rural areas. Urban areas act as the drivers of economy for the rural regions, whereas the rural areas provide necessary

resources. Thus, the urban and rural areas in any state have an interdependent relationship with each other.

### **PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE :-**

Shri Lohalkar, Member of the said meeting welcomed Hon'ble Chairman and Members of Public Hearing Panel, company representatives and general public who were in large number and informed that, as per EIA Notification of GoI, MoEF CC dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, amended thereto, it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. The Sub Regional Office, Nagpur-II, MPCB was in receipt of application of M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd., for conducting public hearing for proposed project from Seldoh to Pimpalgaon of 60.95 Km Length Wardha District (Package-I) of Access controlled Nagpur Mumbai Express Way, for Nagpur District.

The Member of the Committee further informed that, as per said Notification, the project falls under Category '7 (f)'. 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 proposed Expressway. The State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC-I) of Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra has granted the proposal for ToR for conducting EIA studies in its 128<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 2,3,4 June 2016. Accordingly, MSRDC, the project proponent prepared draft EIA Report. As per EIA Notification, one month advance public notice was published in the local newspapers on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 in Daily Lokmat for Marathi and in Daily Hitawad for English. So also the copies of EIA report and Executive summary in English and Marathi were also made available at Ministry of Environment & Forest Office and at various offices of Govt. of Maharashtra i.e. District Magistrate Office, Wardha, Additional District Magistrate, Wardha, Sub Divisional Office, Wardha & Arvi, Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Nagpur-II, Regional Office, MPCB, Nagpur and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai, Zilla Parishad, Wardha, District Industries Centre, Wardha, Tahsil Office, Wardha, Seloo & Arvi, Dist-Wardha, Grampanchayat, offices in the vicinity of the project area Tal- Wardha, Seloo & Arvi, Dist- Wardha, Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestions/comments regarding the above project. The Member further informed that no objections in writing are received by the Sub Regional Office, Nagpur-II, MPCB. He appealed Chairman of the Committee to allow to start the proceedings of public hearing.

Shri Mangesh Joshi, Additional District Magistrate and Chairman of Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project proponent to explain the details about proposed project and its environment management plan in local language Marathi. He further appealed general public to give suggestions/comments/opinion if any, about the project after technical presentation of the project.

The officials of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation gave the presentation of the construction of proposed project and Environment Management Plan in detail. Shri Narendra Toke, Environmental Advisor during presentation, clarified that as per ToR (Terms of Reference) granted by SEAC-I of Govt. of Maharashtra, the concept of "Rain Water Harvesting" and channelizing of flow of rain water alongwith the

high way will be the part of project design only. The abandoned stone quarries will be converted into water reservoirs with the help of District Administration. He also pointed out that to meet the demand of water storage and supply, the existing abandoned quarries can be handed over to MSRDC so that those can be converted into water reservoir which will cater the need of water requirement for the construction of proposed Nagpur Mumbai Express Highway.

After completion of presentation and detailed information, Chairman of the Committee appealed general public to ask any questions or give suggestions if any regarding the project.

**PROCEEDINGS :-**

- 1) **Shri Dayashankar Shivaji Bhagat, Mouza-Dhanoli, Tah-Seloo, Dist-Wardha :-** He mentioned that, the land acquisition for the project should not be by the way of land pooling instead of that, it should be as per direct negotiation with the concerned owner of the land. He also raised the issue of air pollution due to construction of road and its impact on nearby fields.
- 2) **Shri Ramrao More :-** He mentioned that, instead of proposal of green field express highway the existing road from Nagpur to Mumbai should be converted into 4 lane and those should be operated and maintained properly. He also mentioned that, he will not offer the land for the said project.
- 3) **Shri Sanjay Bhagat :-** The apprehension of air pollution due to construction of proposed highway was raised and he mentioned that, due to air pollution he want to oppose the proposed project.
- 4) **Shri Diwakar Game, Regional Co-ordinator, Hinganghat, Dist-Wardha :-** He has an apprehension about the time limit to reach Mumbai from Nagpur, mentioned by project proponent. The information presented by the project proponent is not proper and same shall be corrected and submitted. He raised the concern over the legality of arranging the Environmental public hearing. The land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by adopting a new concept of land pooling, however its should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013. He also mentioned that, the communication team appointed by MSRDC the project proponent is not giving proper information to the villagers and suggested that, the information should be communicated with the signature and stamp of Govt. officer, to the land owners and villagers. Considering the bads status of existing roads from Nagpur to Mumbai it will be appropriate that, the existing roads should be strengthened to 4 length and operated and maintained properly. The farmer of Vidarbha Region will not be benefited due to proposed project. He raised his concern over the availability of raw materials for construction of

proposed highway. He suggested that, no concession shall be granted by MSRDC as far as the royalty of minerals is concerned which is payable to State Govt. He also mentioned that, this area belongs to Mahatma Gandhi proper care shall be taken regarding prevention and control of air pollution in the area. He reiterated that, even one inch of land will not be given to State Govt. unless and until the entire amount of the land is transferred to the account of concerned farmer. He also suggested to provide adequate plantation along the right of way as the right of proposed project is 120 meters.

5) **Shri Mukesh Ramesh Rao Sawarkar :-**

He enquired about the compensation of land and when the same will be credited to the account of land owner as the past experience of project affected person of various other projects is not good. He also suggested that, the land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by adopting a new concept of land pooling, however it should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013.

6) **Shri Prashant Ingle, Digras, Dist.Wardha :-**

He confirmed that, at about 4.5 Hecter of his land will be affected due to construction of proposed highway. In proposed right of way a water tank of drinking water supply scheme needs to be dismantled. He suggested that, the cost of construction of water tank and supply scheme of about Rs.20.0 Lacs to be given the form of compensation to the co-operative society from in the area. He reiterated that, the villagers and farmers do not have objection to the project, however they are opposing the concept of land pooling and mentioned that, the land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by land pooling, however it should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013.

7) **Shri Dilip Wanjari, Virul, Dist.Wardha :-**

In the presence scenario the next generation of the farmers is within the range of 30 to 40 years of age it is very difficult to get the employment as well as skill development. Hence it will be appropriate that, the onetime compensation of land shall be deposited into the account of farmer.

8) **Shri Gangahdar More:-**

He objected the joint measurement scheme of the land under Right of Way of proposed highway. He raised some queries regarding the records of rights at District Administration level on 6/1/2017 and till date the issue is not resolved. He also enquired about the employment to the affected persons due to proposed express highway. He also mentioned that, the land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by land pooling, however it should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013.

- 9) **Shri Sunil Gayakwad:-**  
He mentioned that, we do not want to oppose the project, however the minimum rate of land acquisition shall be announced by the Govt. as the policy of land acquisition for the said project of the Govt. is not clear. The land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by land pooling, however it should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013.
- 10) **Shri Narendra Bhagde:-**  
The land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by land pooling, however it should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013.
- 11) **Shri Advocate Mahendra Dhoke:-**  
He enquired about the tree felling due to proposed project and proposed tree plantation.
- 12) **Shri Shankar Krishnaji Alore:-**  
He suggested that, due to proposed project about 200 Sq. meter land will be acquired & it is not possible to cultivate the land in the remaining area. Hence Govt. have to acquire total land. He question that, how much tree plantation will be carried out. The land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by land pooling, however it should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013.
- 13) **Shri.Shankarrao Wankhede:-**  
There are many mistakes in the existing 7/12, which reflected in the map prepared by the Govt. Hence there are chances of wrong land pooling. He suggested that, above mentioned mistake shall be rectified by the Collector Office and accordingly acquisition shall be carried out. The land acquisition for the proposed project shall not be carried by land pooling, however it should be carried out as per provisions of LAAR Act, 2013.

**PROJECT PROPONENT :-**

The Authority of the project congratulate the people present in the hearing for their valid suggestions and questions arises in the hearing and submitted their submission with reference to the questions and suggestions as below :-

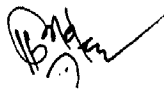
Shri Toke, officials of project proponent informed that the issues raised by the villagers are already addressed in EIA Report. As per (IRC)SP – 21, 2009, Notification about 1,03,600 trees plantation will be carried out in 3 tire system and along the right of way and budgetary provision for the same is made in the Environment management system. However, in the middle of the right of way and at the interval of 50 Kms where the rest area is year mark. The tree plantation in this area is not incorporated, however huge tree plantation will be

carried out. The suggestions made by the villagers during public hearing w.r.t raw material, its actual use and management will be incorporated in the final Environment Impact Assessment report and which will be submitted to competent authority.

Chairman of the Committee while concluding the meeting thanked local people for raising the objections and suggesting and constructive steps for this project. Chairman of Committee appreciated the interest shown by the local people for environmental issues. He informed that 13 nos. of return objections were received and the suggestions, comments made in this meeting will be incorporated in the proceedings and the report will be submitted to the State Expert Appraisal Committee of Govt. of Maharashtra.

Chairman of the Committee thanked all government officials, company officials and particularly general public who attended the public hearing/meeting and stated that the said public hearing is concluded.


The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



(K. N. Hasabnis)  
Sub Regional Officer-II  
MPC Board, Nagpur &  
Convener of the Public  
Hearing Panel



(Nagesh S. Lohalkar)  
Regional Officer  
MPC Board, Nagpur  
Member of the Public



(Mangesh Josthi)  
Addl. District Magistrate,  
Nagpur & Chairman of  
the Public Hearing Panel