

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 17-11-2021 FOR PROPOSED NEW ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON BIO-MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY (CBMWTF) WITH ROTARY KILN INCINERATOR (2000 kg/hr x 2 nos), AUTOCLAVE (500 kg/hr x 8 nos), SHREDDER (500 kg/hr x 8 nos), CHEMICAL DISINFECTION UNIT (1000 kg/hr x 2 nos) AND PLASTIC DANA RECYCLER UNIT (100 kg/hr x 6) AT GUT NO. 231, VILLAGE – ATKARGAON, TALUKA – KHALAPUR, DIST – RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SMS ENVOCLEAN PVT. LTD., GUT NO. 231, VILLAGE – ATKARGAON, TALUKA – KHALAPUR, DIST – RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA

The Public Hearing for proposed new establishment of Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) with Rotary Kiln Incinerator (2000 kg/hr x 2 nos), Autoclave (500 kg/hr x 8 nos), Shredder (500 kg/hr x 8 nos), Chemical Disinfection Unit (1000 kg/hr x 2 nos) And Plastic Dana Recycler Unit (100 kg/hr x 6) At Gut No. 231, Village – Atkargaon, Taluka – Khalapur, DIST – Raigad, Maharashtra Proposed by Project Proponent M/S SMS ENVOCLEAN PVT. LTD., GUT NO. 231, VILLAGE – ATKARGAON, TALUKA – KHALAPUR, DIST – RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA was conducted on Wednesday, the 17th November, 2021 at Samuel Hall, 4th

Floor, Old Mumbai Pune Highway (NH-4), Khopoli, Tal-Khalapur, Dist – Raigad (410 203) at 12.30 noon.

After sitting on the dais by the Environment Public Hearing Committee, the villagers, representatives of the people and various organizations with banners in hand were giving slogans and continuous shouting against the project.

Shri Vidyasagar Killedar, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Dr. Padamshree Bainade, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee and officials of the Project Proponent, Journalists, NGOs working in field of Environment, Local Farmers and Local People who were present in large number and with the permission of Chairperson started the proceedings of public hearing. Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the meeting is called in the background of Covid-19 and as per the directives issued by the Central and State Government from time to time, only 150 persons are allowed in a session. If the participants are more, then remaining will be allowed in the next session.

The sessions will continue till all the participants are given opportunity to attend the meeting.

Member, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee said that in the background of Covid, few directives have been issued. Accordingly, the thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the meeting hall and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the meeting hall.

Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Project Proponent M/s SMS Envoclean Pvt. Ltd., Gut No. 231, Village – Atkargaon, Taluka – Khalapur, DIST – Raigad, Maharashtra is granted Terms of Reference (ToR) by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai in its 217th meeting and by State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC-I) in its 194th meeting. The letter of permission was issued on 23th March, 2021.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has prepared draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report and as per Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF

& CC), Govt. of India (GoI), New Delhi Notification dated 14th September, 2006, applied on 16-06-2021 to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to conduct prior public hearing to obtain Environment Clearance (EC).

Member, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee further informed that the public hearing for the proposed project was fixed on 13-08-2021. But as per the Order of Hon. District Collector & District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag dated 06-08-2021, the public hearing was postponed due to the natural calamity (Flood) occurred in Raigad District.

Afterwards, as per the Order dated 11-10-2021 as issued by Hon. District Collector & District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag, the public hearing is conducted on 17-11-2021 at 12.30 noon at Samuel Hall, 1st Floor, Old Mumbai Pune Highway (N.H.4), Khopoli, Tal – Khalapur, Dist – Raigad – 410 203.

Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted following Public Hearing Panel vide Board's Office Order No. E- 100 of 2021 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 211103-FTS-0099, dated 03rd November, 2021: -

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) District Magistrate-Raigad, Alibag
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Regional Officer, MPCB, Raigad
(Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board) | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I
MPCB, Navi Mumbai | Convener |

The proposed project is outside the notified Industrial Zone and as per Environment Notification, 2006 (Amended) falls under Category B 7 (da) for which, prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

The Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee explained that the main purpose of the Environmental Public Hearing is to inform the general public in the project area about the project and its consequences, to inform the general public about the mandatory pollution control mechanism in the project and to consider their suggestions or objections.

As per said EIA Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, Raigad -I, MPCB, New Mumbai in the Local Newspaper

in Daily Krishwal for Marathi on 16-10-2021, Daily Sakal for Marathi on 16-10-2021 and in national newspaper in Daily Indian Express for English on 16-10-2021. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available at various notified offices of Government i.e. Zonal Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change , West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001; District Magistrate Office, Raigad, Alibag; Additional District Magistrate Office, Raigad, Alibag; Zilla Parishad Office, Raigad, Alibag; District Industries Centre Office, Raigad, Alibag; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Khalapur, District – Raigad; Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Tal-Khalapur, Dist – Raigad; Chief Officer, Khopoli Nagar Palika, Tal-Khalapur, Dist-Raigad; Chief Officer, Khalapur Nagar Panchayat, Tal-Khalapur, Dist – Raigad;

Grampanchayat office at -

Group Grampanchayat-Honad; Group Grampanchayat-Atkargaon;, Group Grampanchayat -Thane Navhe; Group Grampanchayat – Sajgaon; Group

Grampanchayat -Deo Navhe; Group Grampanchayat – Umbre; Group Grampanchayat Office – Khanav; Grampanchayat Office – Takai, Vadval; Chavani; Khariwali; Halkhurd; Savroli; Mahad; Kurvande; Kharambeli;

Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai; Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai; Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board-Raigad, Raigad Bhavan, CBC Belapur, Navi Mumbai; Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board-Raigad, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai and on the website of MPCB.

The Convener informed that all will be given an opportunity to raise any environmental suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in written or oral form after the presentation. Also, after the presentation, if anybody desires to give written statement, it can be given to the representative of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, which will be submitted in the meeting to the Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee. Those who

want to ask oral questions should clearly mention their name and village after the presentation.

The Project Proponent or Project Environment Consultant will answer those questions. He said that the minutes of the meeting would be prepared and will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi through Head Office of MPCB. This Committee is only for recording the opinions, suggestions and objections of the local people and it does not have the authority to make any decision or recommendation. All the suggestions / objections raised during the meeting will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Convener of the meeting informed that the video recording of the meeting, suggestions or objections during the meeting will be noted and the Project Proponent have to submit the revised Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision in this regard. He requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to direct the Project Proponent to start the presentation.

At this moment, few sections of people were shouting slogans against the proposed project. Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to hear the Presentation peacefully and everybody will be given an opportunity to raise his suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only.

When the presentation started, a group was shouting the protest. At that time, Shri. Ayub Tamboli, Tahsildar of Khalapur Taluka appealed the participants that the meeting is organized to know the feelings and opinions of the local people. After the presentation, each person will be given an opportunity to speak. The suggestions and objections raised by you will be recorded as it is and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Hence, all are requested to please complete the presentation. Due to shouting, it is making difficult for us to present your case to the Government in a proper manner. This meeting is organized to raise your environmental suggestions and objections regarding the proposed project. The Project Environment Consultant then gave a detailed presentation on the project.

After the presentation, Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to give names of the representatives who will raise your suggestions or objections. She also appealed that those who want to raise any issue, may raise their hands.

Shri Sandeep Patil said that he has brought letters from Khalapur MLA Shri Mahendra Thorve and Shri Naresh Patil, Member, Zilla Parishad opposing the project and is presenting them to the Environment Public Hearing Committee for sending to the Government. At that time, the Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee instructed to read the letter in the meeting.

Following participants have taken part in the discussions :-

1) Shri Raghunathbahi Shinde, Ex. Dy. Chairman, Raigad Zilla Parishad, Dist – Raigad:-

Here, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad has organized this public hearing to set up the proposed Bio-Waste Processing Project of M/s SMS Company. The Sarpanch, Dy. Sarpanch of Atkargaon as well as most of the Sarpanch and Dy. Sarpanch of the area have opposed the project and have made correspondence with the Government. However, my request to the Administration is that while the project is

being undertaken, the local people, tribals and dalit brothers living in the area, people of all castes and religions are staying here happily with brotherhood. Here the Government wants to impose this project by force. As a villager, I protest this. The Project Consultant of the Company has given us a presentation on the proposed impacts on environment and remedies of this project. It is observed that local people are not satisfied. However, my request is that the Administration is bound to respect the sentiments of the people. The Constitution has given us rights. If the local people do not want this factory, they will have to cancel it without any repression. The local people have submitted a statement to the people's representatives. All the people's representatives in the area have demanded the cancellation of the project. However, all the villagers have requested the Administration and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board not to approve the project.

Our Maharashtra is of Chhatrapati Shivajimaharaj and the Administration should not try to bring this project through repression. The villagers feel that this project will increase the pollution in the area. Here the villagers are subtly expressing their feelings. What the administration did was try to use the police force repressively. If there is repression by the police, then today there are people from this area, tomorrow people from all over the taluka will come and oppose it.

If the police force is used here, it will be opposed. We will not allow to start this project here. We oppose this project. However, I request the Administration and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board not to try to impose this project. The area is inhabited by tribals. There is a river, there is a forest area.

He further said that bio-waste is the medical waste generated from a large hospital in Mumbai, Pune which will be brought here for processing, due to which there will be pollution and disease here. We are against the pollution and disease. Hence, I humbly request that the sentiments of the villagers against this project are very strong. So, there should be not be question of law and order.

The No-objection certificate was issued by the Gram Panchayat here. However, after receiving all the information about the project, the no-objection certificate issued has been revoked. The letter of the same has also be given to the Administration. Hence, we request that this factory should not be allowed here. So, the strong feelings of the local people should be mentioned in the minutes of the meeting and a copy of the minutes should be made available to each Gram Panchayat.

2) Shri Ankit Sakhare, Sarpanch, Group Grampanchayat, Devnhave, Dist – Raigad :-

Various dignitaries from this area and the Taluka are present at this public hearing organized by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Before expressing my views, I request the Administration to cancel this project out of respect for public sentiment. How much should our Taluka bear the burden of Mumbai? Why do we should allow to bring bio-medical waste here of various hospitals from Mumbai?

We are human too. If our next generation is going to be ruined due to the ill effects of this project, then all the citizens of the area, the talukas are against this project. You have mentioned various water sources of this area in the presentation, then why there is no mention of Pazhar Lake in Atkar village?

The officials of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should see now how our nallas and rivers have turned green due to pollution. This Taluka welcomed good industry, but it will never tolerate polluting factories. The proposed project has been opposed by representatives

of all parties and we will strongly oppose any attempt to build the project by repression.

We will protest by closing all the roads and express highways passing through this taluka. However, the administration is requested not to use police repression on the citizens of this Taluka. The proposed project should be cancelled for respecting public sentiment.

3) Shri Eknath Pingale, Resident – Vadavaligaon, Tal – Khalapur, Dist – Raigad :-

In this meeting, two local persons shared information on how the protest is going on. Here the Administration has seen public sentiment. The local people had accepted humility and cooperation when the various projects came here in the past. But the villagers are suffering because of that project. The growing crops of the farmers here are also drying. A farmer who grows vegetables cannot grow anything, because the rivers here are green due to pollution. The pure/ potable water coming from the hills is completely green due to the pollution of the companies here, the SMS company will add additional pollution, hence the local people are opposing the SMS project.

We know that one of the People's Representatives in Mumbai does not want this factory there because of

pollution, so they have been bringing here a factory which has been running for the last 8-10 years there. We are also human beings. This is a request to give justice to the local people that this project should not be allowed to come here. If the factory comes here, the people here will not even be able to walk. Animals, birds should be considered along with human beings. There is a forest area. Similarly, there is a dam near the project site and 10-15 villages are using water for drinking purposes. If the proposed project causes pollution, the villagers will not be able to drink even water. They have to buy water.

You set up a factory once, but you hurt the people there, they have to buy water every day. However, the entire taluka is against the project, the opposition will continue, so this project should not be approved.

.4) **Shri Sandeep Sambhaji Deshmukh,**
Residence -Aadoshi Gaon, Tal – Khalapur,
Dist – Raigad :-

He said that we strongly oppose the organization/project environment consultant agency, which has now made the presentation on behalf of the company. Because the presentation is completely false. Because this organization is trying

to mislead the local people, the government through presentations. We will go to court on behalf of all the villagers to take action against the concerned organization/project environment consultant. Our adjoining Seepage Lake/Pazar Talav is not shown. You are going to build this project on Gut No. 231, adjacent of it River Patalganga is flowing, which is not shown. If such a falsehood is done by the Project Proponent before commissioning of the project, the local people will tolerate these acts. He said that just now the message is received that in the General Body (GB) meeting of Raigad Zilla Parishad, a resolution passed today protesting against the proposed SMS project. It is also mentioned in the resolution that Raigad Zilla Parishad will not issue any permissions which are mandatory to this company in future. Shri Sandeep Deshmukh objected that in the presentation, it is showed that there is no wildlife here. We have applied to Khalapur Forest Department and we will get the details soon. A period of 2-3 days should be given. It will be submitted upon receipt. There is a forest area within 300 meters of the project site. There are wild animals in that forest area. The

legumes are the main source of livelihood for the tribal. Apart from that, there are medicinal plants in this forest area. It is recorded in the Forest Department's office. We will make available government information to you. In this Shahu, Phule, Ambedkar's Maharashtra, Babasaheb has given equal rights to all, we will not tolerate any oppression. Opposition to this project will continue till the last breath. We will not allow what happened in Govandi to happen here. However, the Government and the Environment Public Hearing Committee are kindly requested not to co-operate with this project.

At this moment, the Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed Shri Sandeep Deshmukh in the meeting that no repression has taken place. We have come here to take note of the suggestions, objections and comments of the local people regarding the proposed project and to submit it to the Government. It is mandatory for any project to inform the local people about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and it is a 10–15 minutes presentation. We have come here to register your suggestions and objections in a democratic manner

without any repression. Your statement is being recorded. Video shooting of the meeting is also taking place. The suggestions and objections you have submitted are recorded and will be included in the minutes.

5)Shri Sandeep Taturam Patil, Taluka President, Shetkari Kamgar Party, Resident-Atkargaon, Tal – Khalapur, Dist – Raigad:-

Shri Sandeep Patil said that we had demanded to the Gram Panchayat that whether No Objection Certificate (NOC) to this project is issued by the Gram Panchayat? He read out the written letter sent by the Gram Sevak. In it, the Grampanchayat Sachiv/Village Secretary has mentioned that the SMS company had applied for various licenses. However, the villagers have lodged several complaints against the company, and he has not signed any No-Objection Certificate for the SMS company or given any such certificate to the company.

Shri Sandeep Patil here objected that how the company has given wrong and misleading information that they have been issued NOC from the Gram Panchayat? If any officials have issued the NOC, then

criminal action should be initiated against the concerned officials.

- 6) **Shri Ramchandra Deshmukh,**
Residence-Sajgon, Tal-Khalapur,
Dist-Raigad, Member, Maharashtra
Rajya, Shetkari Kamgar Party:-

He opined that at the beginning of the public hearing, it was seen that the reading was going on despite the agitation of the people. Therefore, what was said during the public outcry cannot be understood. It seems that nobody wants this project here. So, those who want this project, their vote should be taken first by raising hands.

It is mentioned here that there are no wild animals. So human beings have life, this should be thought. It is observed here that even in young children, diseases like asthma and cough are seen in large numbers. So, there should not just development, human beings must live. This project is now coming to our village due to the objection of the people's representative of Mumbai. However, we all villagers will not allow this project to commission here. This

Raigad district has a long history. Don't try to drive away the people of Raigad.

7) **Shri Kashinath Sadashiv Parte, At Post – Vanve, Tal – Khalapur, Dist – Raigad:-**

He protested against the proposed project, saying that there were some temples and a temple of Gavdevi in the area. Care of temples should be taken by the Government. I have accepted the Warkari sect and as a representative of the Warkari sect, I would like to say that Shri Bandatya Karadkar, the President of Maharashtra Warkari Mandal, will come here to fight against the proposed project.

8) **Shri Chandrakant Govind Deshmukh, Residence – Aadoshi, Tal-Khalapur, Dist – Raigad:-**

He said that while giving Presentation, all have seen the agitation of the local people. Though, the presentation took place today, but we the local people have got the complete information about this project from YouTube since last three months. He read out various environmental notifications and told in the meeting that the present Project Proponent had told us that the project would not cause any

pollution. He said that the environment includes all animals, birds, atmosphere, water, air, land, geology. Violation of these rules will never be tolerated. According to the project officials, only bio-medical waste will be disposed of here. But even in that process, the smoke is going to be released into the air, which will invite many diseases. Project officials say the proposed project does not cause any pollution. Then, what is the need to bring the project here from Govandi? This should be analyzed. However, our protest should be noted. We oppose this project.

9) **Shri Kishor Pansare, Corporator, Khopoli Nagar Parishad, Tal – Khalapur, Dist – Raigad:-**

Shri Pansare informed that as Chairman of the Sankalpa Social Society, I am talking few words. He further said that I would like to thank all the five gram panchayats of our area and all the political parties for coming together to oppose this project," he said. There is no politics here, we have all come together for the issues of the people, the Government should take note that this is an outbreak of the people.

According to the Constitution of Babasaheb Ambedkar, the focus of all our social work is the people/the human being. For this, the Pollution Control Department has been established to prevent any pollution

He objected and said that we should be aware that the Order to relocate the factory from Mumbai has been issued by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board only. The factory has been ordered to be relocated for whatever reason, but the people's representatives of that area also demanded that the factory be relocated due to pollution. Therefore, the Order to shift the factory was issued by the Environment Department, Govt of Maharashtra. So why should we take this factory? He suggested to look for an alternative place. We will not allow to start the factory here.

He objected that as a Corporator, I have written a letter to the Khopoli Municipal Nagar Parishad that the factory will cause air pollution. Our municipality is nearby. So I have personally informed the Government and Khopoli Municipal Council that this factory should not be installed here due to air pollution. However, the local public should not let this factory come here. However, I

would like to thank everyone for coming together for the questions of the environment and public.

**10) Shri Sunil Patil, Residence – Take Gaon,
Tal – Khalapur, Dist – Raigad:-**

He said that representatives of many parties expressed their sentiments here. Those are the feelings of the citizens. This should be noted. If the factory is coming here from Govandi, Mumbai by misleading the Government, then there will be a big outcry. There is a Pazar Lake/ Seepage Lake near the project. Whatever water goes into the river Patalganga, it has turned green. A resolution of Khopoli Municipal Council will also be made available to prevent this project from coming here.

**11) Sou. Dalina Waghmare, Member,
Atakargaon Grampanchayat, Tal – Khalapur,
Dist – Raigad :-**

We have two localities/castles near the proposed project. Our children will suffer because of this project, but we do not want this project in our village. He submitted a written statement to the Environment Public Hearing Committee.

12) Shri Narendra Chandrakant Gaikwad,
Residence – Atakargaon, Tal – Khalapur,
Dist – Raigad, President, Raigad District
Republican Party Of India :-

He first thanked all the Gram Panchayats and villagers of the vicinity for coming together today for a decision in the interest of the people. If a project is harmful to public health, it must be opposed. Public sentiment is evident here today.

If this had been the case with a polluting project in the past, the local people which are facing severe pollution, might not have to face. There are many steel and chemical factories here. All the people are suffering due to the pollution of this factory. There is a strong feeling of local people about SMS factory. So, the explanation about the misconceptions that have spread among all the villagers about the proposed project. The explanation should be given by the MPCB.

He asked the first question that if a factory is polluting, then why the hearing should be held by MPCB? What will you do with the opinion of the people? Very inadequate information about the

upcoming project is made available to the public, so the public cannot ask questions.

MPCB should consider the questions of the people. Why does this factory come here from Govandi, if the people there are suffering from health problems due to this project, then the local people here will also suffer? There is an atmosphere of fear among the people due to the news of the channel. The reason for bringing the factory here from another place should be explained.

If there is pollution here, then the polluted water will go to Patalganga. There is no information about the bio-medical waste of the project. Also, if this information would have been made available to the villagers in advance, they could have asked the questions. If there is any citizen, animal, bird, if the company's factory is causing pollution, then we protest against that company.

At this time, the Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee on Environment suggested that new issues should be taken up instead of raising the same issues. At that time, Shri Narendra Gaikwad suggested that the written questions submitted to the committee should also

be answered. The Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee informed to ask the question and instructed to give the answers immediately.

Shri Gaikwad while asking questions said that we welcome new industries. But if an industry is removing the jack from the river, the bio-medical waste of the proposed industry will cause water and air pollution, then we oppose such a project. At this point, the Chairperson suggested an answer.

The Project Environmental Consultant said that the bio-medical waste from the proposed project will be brought from the place where the waste is generated in a closed vehicle as per the standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

At that time, the local people started to shout as No, No, No. The audience protested a lot. They made a hi hi declaration against the project.

Here,

**13) Ms. Pallavi Patil, Residence – Atkargaon,
Tal-Khalapur, Dist- Raigad:-**

She objected that –The generation of Bio-Medical waste will be a nuisance to existing generation and the next generation. If project

officials are going to bring garbage from there in a closed vehicle, then why bring it here from there? We protest against this company. At that time Miss Pallavi Patil announced to shout the protest. It was accompanied by all.

14) **Shri Mangesh Deshmukh, Residence –**

Adoshi gaon, Tal-Khalapur, Dist – Raigad :-

He opined that this public outcry at the meeting is not just due to the proposed project alone and today. This is the result of what we local people have been experiencing for the last several years. The arrival of the SMS company has added fuel to the fire. Today the water of our village is completely polluted. Then for the last 25 years, what is done by the MPCB? Look the condition at every evening here, half a k.m. there is smoke here. Are there any restrictions or rule on how many factories can be established in a particular area? Has the Government fixed any policy, how many factories should there be in an area, how many paddy farms should there? Our very existence here is in danger. We are all in this do-or-die situation. If we don't get justice, we will go the way we will get it.

15) Shri Sunil Sukhadare, Resident – Dheku, Tal – Khalapur, Dist - Raigad :-

I also support the views expressed by the village representatives against the proposed project.

16) Shri Manish Waman Khavale, Resident – Dheku, Tal – Khalapur, Dist - Raigad :-

It is objected that -

It was informed in the meeting that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of the project was made public. It was made available to the public in various Gram Panchayat Offices. If it was made public, whether it was made available to public for reading in every Gram Panchayat? Did every citizen of the village get it? When I inquired at Atkargaon Gram Panchayat, I found out that this report was received by Atkargaon Gram Panchayat yesterday morning only i.e. before one day of public hearing day. If democratic rights are given to all. If repressive action is being taken by the administration, then it openly protested by us;

- a) In the EIA report, the wind direction is shown from East to West. Shri Khule objected that in Konkan region, the wind direction is from West to East;
- b) Commenting on the present status water in the report, he said that if anybody gives report that the water of village Atkargaon is potable/fit to drink, then he/she should be publicly honored;
- c) The proposed plant of SMS requires bio-medical waste as raw material. This bio-medical waste directly affects the animals and human beings.
- d) It is informed by the Project Proponent that as the project plot falls under Red Zone Category, they have planned to commission the project here.

Mr. Khule opined that even if the project site falls under the Red Zone area, if the bio-medical waste has direct effects on animals and humans, then the Government should set up a separate category for such bio-medical waste processing. Separate Zone/Special Zone should be created.

At that time, when the Chairperson of the meeting asked Mr. Khule if he needed clarification on the technical issues, Mr. Khule said that he requires 100% clarification. Because this is a public hearing, it needs to be noted. It is also important to know the answers given by the Administration in the public hearing if some judicial process starts tomorrow regarding this project. The Chairperson instructed the Environmental Consultant to give answers.

e) At this point, Mr. Khule asked the Environmental Consultant that if he fully agreed with the report he had prepared. The Environmental Consultant said he fully agreed. At that time the direction of the wind is given from east to west. Is that true? The Environmental Consultant said that the direction of the wind is given during the study period. Mr. Khule said that you should not give round answers. "Is it true that winds are blowing from east to west," he replied in the affirmative. Mr. Khule requested the Chairperson to take note of this.

The Environmental Consultant said that during the winter months of October 06, 2020 to January 2, 2021, the winds mainly blow from east to west in the Konkan belt.

Mr. Khule replied that we live here, at the beginning of the rainy season the winds blow from east to west. The rest of the year the winds blow from west to east. Relevant environmental consultants are trying to impress us. The Chairperson said to Shri Khule that this point is noted.

Shri Khule further objected that the standards given for air humidity are in English. Though the Report is given in Marathi, but the names are given in English. The Chairperson instructed to provide information about air humidity.

At this time, the Environment Consultant informed that the Executive Summary Report has been given in Marathi. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been given in all the Gram Panchayats. Mr. Khule asked whether the relevant EIA has been given in Marathi. What will the common man know about your report using technical terms?

The Environmental Consultant said that as per the Notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, it is mandatory to submit the EIA report in a concise/summary local language. Accordingly, its executive summary report has been made available in Marathi.

On this occasion, Mr. Khule objected that as per the instructions given by the Government of Maharashtra from time to time and also various decisions given by the court, it is mandatory to make all the reports available to the public in Marathi only. The Chairperson said that this point is noted.

The Chairperson directed Mr. Khule to register further objections. Mr. Khule asked that in the point no. 3, the quality of water has been commented that the water has been spoiled due to the use of water by the local people for washing dishes, clothes on water bodies, river banks. He blamed that the water is spoiled by the companies, the villagers are being held responsible instead of the factories. All the participants have demanded an explanation. All the participants have shouted and demanded explanations.

At this time, the Chairperson asked Environmental Consultant to give explanation for page no.32. The Environmental Consultant replied that fecal coliform and BOD are bio-diversity components that cause organisms, which are absent in chemically contaminated water. Contaminated water produced by domestic sewage, which contains fecal coliforms, has been identified as a potential hazard. Mr. Khule said that this does not mean that there will be pollution, but there will be pollution.

Shri Khule further asked that you are going to run two kilns of each ton for two hours. So in the future, if the people of the surrounding area suffers due to smoke from your factory, you will assume that it is due to another company. Because no one from our village goes to the water.

He further asked about the trees plantation, who is responsible for planting trees in the project? Pollution control board or administration? The Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that while developing the project, it is overseen by the project promoters, then by the Pollution Control Board, then by DISH, then by the

Local Bodies and the Project Proponent is expected to do it.

At that time, Mr. Khule said that the written answer given to him by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was that it was not our job to plant trees. A complaint has been lodged in the last two years regarding the Revenue Department on the Lokashahi Day, which is still pending.

Mr. Khule opined that there is a plan to bring this company from Govandi, then the Government should create a "Special Zone", where there is no human habitation, animals should be relocated. This project should not be brought to our village, taluka. Even if the project is necessary, it should not be a killer of man or animal.

Shri Khule further said that the report given by the Project Environmental Consultant is completely false and I condemn it. The Project Proponent is requested to get justice in due course.

Shri Khule read out the letter from Forest Examiner's Office, Khalapur. He demanded that a copy of the minutes of the meeting please be made available.

17) **Chairperson, Environment Public
Hearing Committee :-**

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Environment Consultant to give clarification on 2-3 points raised by many in the discussion. One is that the Pazar Lake/Seepage lake is not shown, the river bed is not shown, the forest area is not shown, the report states that there is no wildlife, but the report of the forest department shows that there is a wildlife.

The Environment Consultant answered that in the report, it is stated that 52 categories of species of wildlife are found within the periphery of the project site (10 km). However, the report also states that there is no endangered species observed (as per Schedule 1), whether animal or wild, are not within the project area periphery (10 km).

At this time Shri Khule objected that Shekru is an endangered species (as per Schedule 1). Only here environmental consultant is mentioning that they were not found during the study period to save their skin. You are expected to summarize. We have

a 365-day connection with this area here. Shekru is found here.

The Chairperson, Public Environment Hearing Committee directed to clarify the next point regarding forest area. Many participants have objected that at the project site i.e. Gat No. 231, the adjacent area/land belongs to the Forest Department.

The Environmental Consultant informed that as per the Presentation on page no.8, under the Head of Protected Forest /Sanctuary, the Protected Forest is 2.9 k.m. away at West from the project site; at 9.1 k.m. at North and at West, East and South sides of the project, there are total 12 Reserved Forests.

Shri Khule asked how much radius the smoke from the project will go? The Environment Consultant explained that as described in the EIA Report, the smoke will come from a range of 1,080 meters to 1,088 meters radius. Its modeling and simulation are given.

Mr. Khule asked how this would be measured? The Environment Consultant said that as per Central Pollution Control Board and the Air Mode software

provided the data while obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC), and the Air Mode software is used in accordance with the data collected by the MPCB. It is measured according to those standards.

Shri Khule said that the system which will be adopted by you is also adopted by other companies and there is pollution. So even in this way pollution is going to happen.

The Environment Consultant informed that it is mandatory to commission Online Monitoring System after the completion of the project. It is connected to the servers of Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

While Shri Khule mentioned other companies, the Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed that suggestions or objections should be raised regarding the project for which the public hearing is called.

Here the Chairperson opined that whether it should be concluded that you (Shri Khule) do not agree with the opinion of the Environmental Consultant that air pollution will not occur here due to the height of 65 meters

chimney. When shri Khule answered affirmative, Chairperson remarked that it has been noted.

The Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Environment Consultant to answer the point for the objection raised for Pazar Lake (Seepage Lake). She remarked here that many local people objected that Pazar Talav is not mentioned in the report. The Environment Consultant answered that in the EIA report, it is mentioned that Adoshi Pazar Lake is 600 meters away from the project site.

Mr. Khule objected that water samples were collected, which are not mentioned. The distance of the forest area is also shown incorrectly. This report is incorrect. Therefore, this meeting based on wrong information. The another survey should be carried, local people should be involved in it and then further decision should be taken about it. The company, environmental consultant and Administration will be responsible for future "People's Movement" against the project.

18) Advocate Ramdas Patil,

Takli, Dist -Raigad :-

He opined that the Administration has heard the outcry of the people. Because this project is dangerous. All the participants have opposed the

project. Such factories lead to lawsuits and tensions between locals and companies. Hence, this project should be come at Atkargaon. This factory is to commisioned to a place where there is no population. Do not insist on starting here.

Shri Khawale said that despite the death toll in the village, it should be noted that so many people have come here.

- 19) **Shri Dilip Pundalik Patil,**
Maharashtra Navnirman Sena
Dy. President Residence – Atkargaon,
Tal – Khalapur, Dist-Raigad

. A young boy has died in our village. Yet so many people are gathered. This project is harmful, so many people have come here to say they don't want it. Hence, the project should not come to this village.

- 20) **Ms. Reshma Angre,**
Khalapur Taluka Sangatana, Shiv Sena:-

The report is not given for 365 days. Environment Consultant is giving vague answers. The report is not given in Marathi. It is a question of everyone's life. There is a lot of pollution here and this company will also add the pollution. The project site is densely populated. However, an alternative

site should be selected for the project in Mumbai.
The factory should not be allowed to come here.

- 21) **Shri Rajesh Patil,**
Residence – Atkargaon, Tal – Khalapur,
Dist – Raigad :-

He requested that he wants show a two-minute clip to all participants in the meeting which is for the proposed project. The comments are made by famous actor Akshay Kumar about this SMS Govandi project. The Chairperson of the meeting allowed it. In it, Akshay Kumar says that the life span of a human being is 67 years, while the life span in Govandi is only 39 years.

- 22) **Shri Nilesh Ganpat Patil, Residence**
– Sajgaon, Tal – Khalapur, Dist – Raigad :-

He said that this project is already in operation at Govandi. If Govandi has a large population, then the population of the five Gram Panchayats will be between 15,000 and 20,000. There are human beings, here also there are human beings. Hence, Don't kill creature of this village to save the creatures of Govandi. After the Corona epidemic, all countries declared a lockdown. In our country

too, each State declared a lockdown in a different way. In Maharashtra, there was district lockdown i.e. people cannot travel from one district to another. Similarly, how can it be agreed that Mumbai waste can be accepted here.

After hearing video of Shri Rajesh Patil, Shri Rajesh Patil informed all that the project proponent is giving false and misleading information that they do not have space at Govandi, hence they desire to come here. The company is directed to shift from Govandi.

The Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee told Shri Rajesh Patil that he should send the video to the Guardian Minister of the Raigad District, the village group. She further remarked that we have listened to everyone in a democratic manner and everyone's issues have been taken into account.

Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Member, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to conclude the meeting.

With permission of the Chairperson, Member, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee while concluding the meeting thanked all project officials, journalists, NGOs working in the field of Environment, Local farmers and the local people who were present in large number and on behalf of the Chairperson declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to submit their written suggestions/objections if any. The question of law and order has arisen in this public hearing and the villagers, people's representatives of all the Gram Panchayats and various organizations present during the public hearing for the proposed project have shown strong opposition.

From above situation it seems that if this project will be sanctioned then there will be tremendous agitations carried out from surrounding people which will be create law and order situation in surrounding area.

The written objections received during the meeting and before the meeting are enclosed herewith.



(Vidyasagar Killedar)
Member, Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Incharge Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad



(Dr. Padamshree Bainade)
Chairperson,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Raigad,
Dist – Raigad