

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED DIGHI PORT BASED INDUSTRIAL AREA (DPIA) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT MANGAON & ROHA TALUKAS, DIST. RAIGAD TO BE DEVELOPED BY PROJECT PROPONENT, MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Environmental Public Hearing for development of the proposed Dighi Port Based Industrial Area (DPIA) Project at Mangaon & Roha Talukas in Dist Raigad to be developed by Project Proponent Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) was conducted on Friday, the 08th October, 2021 at 12.00 noon at Gawali Samaj Bhavan, Near Bank of Maharashtra, Main Road, Nizampur, Tal. Mangaon, Dist. Raigad in Maharashtra.

As per the EIA Notification dated 14th September 2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, (MoEF, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendments, The Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted the Public Hearing Panel vide Office Order No. E-79 of 2021 vide letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-210914-FTS-0096, dated 14th September, 2021, which as follows:

1) District Magistrate, Raigad, Alibag or his representative not below the rank of an Additional District Magistrate	Chairperson
2) Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (Regional Officer, MPC Board, Raigad)	Member
3) Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board, Mahad	Convener

Mrs. Indira Gaikwad, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Mahad, is a convener of the Public Hearing Panel Started the process the public hearing opened the meeting and stated that the meeting would be conducted while strictly following all the guidelines issued by the Government of India regarding COVID-19.

Thermal checking and use of sanitizer at the entrance of the venue and use of mask were compulsory and all were required to follow social distancing in the meeting hall, as per the Office Memorandum issued by the MoEF&CC dated 14th September, 2020. The hall distributed on two floors, first floor and second floor. The Dies is placed on second floor and if excess people were come the seating

arrangement is done on first floor. On the second floor LED Screen/T.V. with speaker arrangement is done.

Mrs. Indira Gaikwad then welcomed the Members of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel, Dr. Padmashri Bainade, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Panel, Shri. Vidyasagar Killedar, In-charge Regional Officer, MPCB, Raigad and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Panel, she also welcomed Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and members of the public who were present and informed that as per the EIA Notification.

It is mandatory to obtain prior Environmental Clearance (EC) and conduct public consultation in respect of certain categories of projects or activities which are covered in the schedule to the said Notification. The project falls under Category 7(c) which requires prior Environmental Clearance from the MoEF&CC, Government of India, as part of which public consultation is mandatory.

The convener further informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make members of the public aware about the proposed developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the project.

The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board had received request from the Project Proponent, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), for conducting public hearing as part of public consultation prior to developing proposed Dighi Port Based Industrial Area (DPIA) Development Project at Mangaon & Roha Talukas, Dist – Raigad, Maharashtra.

MIDC had applied online in the prescribed format along with the pre-feasibility report (PFR) and other annexures as required to the MoEF&CC for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting EIA studies and the MoEF&CC has considered the proposal and granted ToR approval on 24th August, 2020.

On receipt of the draft EIA Report, public notice was published by the Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Mahad in one Local Newspaper, i.e. Dainik Sagar in Marathi and in one National Newspaper, the Indian Express daily in English on 02nd September, 2021, informing the public about the date (08th October, 2021) and venue of the Public Hearing (Gawali Samaj Bhavan, Near Bank of Maharashtra, Main Road, Nizampur, Tal. Mangaon, Dist. Raigad, Maharashtra).

A copy of the EIA report and executive summary thereof in Marathi and English were made available at various locations as prescribed under the EIA Notification, as follows:

1. The Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001 (by post);
2. The District Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag (on 2nd September 2021);
3. The Additional District Magistrate Office, Raigad, Alibag (on 2nd September 2021);
4. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Alibag (on 2nd September 2021);
5. The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Raigad, Alibag (on 2nd September 2021);
6. The Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Mangaon, Raigad (on 1st September 2021);
7. The Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Roha, Raigad (on 1st September 2021);
8. The Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti-Mangaon, Raigad (on 1st September 2021);
9. The Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti-Roha, Raigad (on 3rd September 2021);
10. The Chief Officer, Nagarpanchayat Mangaon, Mangaon, Raigad (on 1st September 2021);
11. The Chief Officer, Nagarpanchayat Roha, Roha, Raigad (on 3rd September 2021);
12. The Joint Director, Directorate of Industrial Health & Safety, 6th Floor, Konkan Bhavan Annx., CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai (on 6th September 2021);
13. The Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, A-1, & A-2 Wing, 5th Floor, CGO Complex, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai (on 6th September 2021);
14. Gram Panchayat Office Raatwad (Part) (on 3rd September 2021);
15. Group Gram Panchayat Office Dakhane (on 3rd September 2021);
16. Group Gram Panchayat Office Pansai (on 3rd September 2021);
17. Group Gram Panchayat Office Nilaj (on 3rd September 2021);
18. Group Gram Panchayat Office Bhuvan (on 3rd September 2021);
19. Group Gram Panchayat Office Potner (on 3rd September 2021);
20. Group Gram Panchayat Office Bhale (on 3rd September 2021);

21. Group Gram Panchayat Office Nizampur (on 3rd September 2021);
22. Group Gram Panchayat Office Kadape (on 3rd September 2021);
23. Group Gram Panchayat Office Pahur (on 3rd September 2021);
24. Gram Panchayat Office Jamgaon (on 3rd September 2021);
25. Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Mahad (on 1st September 2021);
26. Regional Office, MPCB, Raigad (on 6th September 2021);
27. The Joint Director (WPC), MPCB, Mumbai (on 7th September 2021);
28. The Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, Mumbai (on 7th September 2021); and,
29. On the official Website of the M.P.C. Board.

Vide the Public Notice, the general public were requested to send their suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project.

Further, participants were requested to raise their views, suggestions/objections with respect to the proposed project from the environmental angle orally as well as in writing.

The Convener then requested the Chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel to permit start of the proceedings.

With the Chairperson's permission, the Environmental Consultant on behalf of MIDC for the project made a presentation about the proposed project as follows:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Proposed Project details
- 3 Baseline Environmental Data
- 4 Environment Impacts, Management Plan & Budget
- 5 Project Benefit to PAPs
- 6 Summary and Conclusion

The Environment Consultant further stated as follows:

MIDC is proposing Dighi Port Based Industrial Area (DPIA) with an investment of Rs 2100 crore and land area of 5040.04 hectares. The proposed area is adjacent to Kolad town on Konkan Railway line and Mumbai-Goa NH-66 and is at a distance of 115 km from Mumbai and 100 km from Pune. DPIA is one of the major nodes developing as a port-based self-contained, future investment destination along the DMIC corridor in Maharashtra.

MIDC will pay special attention to attract less polluting, less hazardous industries.

The industrial estate will come up in 15 villages in 2 talukas, as follows: Mangaon Taluka: Ratwad (some parts), Koshimbale (Nizampur), Pansai, Kalvan, Nilaj, Ghotwal, Dakhane, Potner, Bhale, Jawate, Nizampur, Kandalgaon (Budruk), Roha Taluka: Jamgaon, Patharshet, Pahur.

The Environmental Consultant for the project further stated that industries from three zones will be included in the planned industrial area, namely, Engineering, Pharma Formulation and Food Processing. Similarly, residential settlements, Social Amenity Centers, Dispensaries, Fire Brigade Stations, Waste Water Treatment Plants, and other facilities will be provided.

While the environmental consultant was making the presentation, some locals stated that they had some objections to the project. At this point, the Environmental Consultant requested that suggestions and objections be raised and registered after the presentation was completed.

The environmental consultant explained the features of the project. He said that the water required for the project would be taken from the Kundalika river. This permission has been obtained. He said that the wastewater generated in the project will be processed and reused in the production process. The wastewater generated by the units to be set up will not go outside the industry's premises. This is called ZLD - Zero Liquid Discharge Project

Once the entire project is operational, it will create huge employment opportunities for the locals. There will be a huge increase in direct and indirect employment. The project will enhance the infrastructure in the area such as road network, water supply, health system.

At various points, members of the public interrupted the presentation to raise objections. They were requested by the Environmental Public Hearing Panel to wait until the presentation was completed and assured that all views would be noted.

Ms. Ulka Mahajan objected to conduct of public hearing because the locals have not received any documents. If notice was given a month in advance, all documents had to be made available to all locals a month in advance. No documents were received at the Gram Panchayat office. Now, after watching the presentation, how can ordinary people ask questions about it? There are farmers,

there are agricultural labours, this public hearing is a face, because it has to be shown to the Government.

Some of the locals present supported her. At that time, Ms. Ulka Mahajan said that the documents should be made available to us today and a public hearing should be held again in a month. These documents were not in the possession of Tehsil Office, Gram Panchayat Office. The general public needs more time to study the documents than Experts. The assembled public supported the demand with shouting.

The member of Public Hearing panel informed that, all the documents have been made available to all the Gram Panchayat offices and all Government Offices one month in advance, and the proper acknowledgment was available with the MPCB. Still, many in the representatives objected. Some said that the maps in the presentation were in English and it was necessary for the locals to have maps and all documents in Marathi to enable them to understand.

Most of the participants wanted this issue to be discussed immediately. Ms. Ulka Mahajan opined that this public hearing should be stopped immediately as it is illegal.

At that time, some participants said that they want industries, but have to be heard first.

After the presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Panel invited those present to express their views, suggestions or objections regarding proposed project from the environmental angle.

Following participants have taken part in the discussions, their suggestions, objections and comments and the responses given by Project Proponent/Environment Consultant/Public Hearing Panel:

1) **Shri Rajaram Tukaram Ranpise, Sarpanch, Nizampur Grampanchayat, Tal-Mangaon, Dist-Raigad**

Shri Ranpise informed that Survey No. 33, Nizampur has been marked as acquired, however, there are houses in the marked area. Those stamps must be canceled. There are houses around Nizampur. It would be appropriate to leave a distance of at least 500 meters around Nizampur. Some plots have been stamped, some are not stamped. Here, in the meeting it is informed that drinking water arrangement is made, but name of the villages are not mentioned. We will not give

our water. We are watching the present activities of the Mahad MIDC. The effluent and sewage are disposed in the Kal river, which is spreading diseases. The incidences of fish kill are repeatedly happening. We have several times registered our complaints to District Administration and MPCB. Just now it is informed that MIDC will give potable water. Then give us time limit for the same. Here there are 50 villages/gaons, colonies (Wadies). Whether remaining villages will be kept deprived? The environmental (social) survey is carried without intimating to the respective Gram Panchayats. It is bogus survey. Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat also does not know when the people came and carried the survey. The survey should be carried taking into confidence the representatives of the people. We want industries. Business activities should be increased. The local people should get job opportunities. The local farmers have given their irrigated land to the MIDC, but neither they got job in MIDC, nor in any other companies established in MIDC. Hence, the young boys and girls have to shift from here to Thane, Mumbai. It is observed that to distract the attention of the people, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) takes action on paper only. The local people have to suffer. They are playing with people's lives. The facilities that should be provided to the farmers and locals are not being provided. Just showing on the paper will not be accepted. It should be guaranteed by MIDC. The officers come, just give oral promises. We condemn such type of acts. Now here local people says that environment survey is not at all carried. In this Nizampur area, there are more than 200 engineers, who are unemployed. If people from outside Mumbai, Pune are brought in instead of giving job opportunities to local engineers, it will not be acceptable to us. We have to agitate for all these things.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Panel directed concerned officer to give answers. At this moment, Project Environment Consultant started to give answers. Ms. Ulka Mahajan, local participant objected for it and demanded that consultant should not give answers, as consultant is not bound like Government Authorities. All the participants and local people supported the views expressed by Ms. Ulka Mahajan that only Competent-Authority should reply the questions. At the time, the project consultant said that the Executive Engineer of MIDC is present here and the project is being developed under his supervision.

At this moment, Executive Engineer of the Project Proponent informed that this subject/point falls in purview of planning and we will report to our Planning Department that in the public hearing demand for 500 meter distance around

Nizampur was raised. Also, at some places land has been stamped and in some places it is not stamped. The matter will be solved, and the decision will be made in this regard for the benefit of all.

2) Shri Pratik Rahate, Resident – Nizampur, Tal-Mangaon, Dist-Raigad

Government of Maharashtra has declared Nizampur and surrounding areas as Industrial Zone. It does not belong to MIDC. First it should be cancelled. Then only it can be used as Residential Zone by the local people.

Here, the Project Proponent promised to take up the issue before the concerned department for suitable decision.

3) Shri Sudhir Dattu Pawar, Ex Member, Panchayat Samiti, Residence – Nizampur, Tal-Mangaon, Dist-Raigad

Shri Pawar supported the demand made by Shri Rahate. He said that since last 25 years, Government has just declared Industrial Zone, nothing is done afterwards. Hence this Industrial Zone should be cancelled immediately and it should be again converted into Residential Zone.

4) Shri Chandrashekhar Raosaheb Khanvilkar, Mahad Vidhan Sabha Mangaon Rashtravadi Congress President

Today, you are giving promise of changing of plan. But in 2009, there were meetings at every village. The public awareness was made by the then officials. At that time, it was promised that 200 meter distance (buffer zone) will be kept. It is also promised that there will not be Chemical Zone. Now here it is informed in the Presentation that there is will Pharmaceuticals and Formulation companies. It is connected to chemicals. It is also shown in the Presentation that there will be Food Zone. It is also same as chemicals.

Our land was acquired for DMIC project, it is now converted to MIDC. We have given our land for DMIC as per their promises. We do not want Food Zone and Pharma zone. We want here only Engineering Zone. One this condition we will co-operate for setting of this MIDC. We were already promised that 200-meter distance will be ours. Now you are saying that there will be buffer zone but buffer zone area will be in possession of MIDC only. Secondly, those who have not accepted or agreed to the MIDC person should not be forced to do so. At that time, project proponent told that no land would be forcibly acquired. Though those who give voluntarily, their land should be taken, but no compulsion should be

brought to acquire the land. Except 32A and 32B, 7/12 should be village wise in the name of the farmer. The 200-meter R zone should belong to the village, not to MIDC. The R zone area of each village should be different.

Executive Engineer, MIDC replied that no one is being coerced. The land is being taken only of consent. Team Farmer, now the issue was raised that there should be a MIDC 200 meters outside the village, but this issue belongs to our planning department. We have taken note of this and will discuss with our planning department. At this point, some local people began to question it. At that time, the Chairperson of Environment Public Hearing Panel replied that the issue of the villagers has been taken.

5) Shri Nathuram Shankar Waghmare, Residence-Mangaon, Tal-Mahad, Dist-Raigad

The Forest Rights Act came into force in 2010. Accordingly, Forest rights are given collectively. If MIDC has comes under Forest land, does MIDC have the right to take it? And written guarantee about MIDC will not pollute should be made available to us today.

6) Ms. Ulka Mahajan, Social Worker, Dist-Raigad

Collective forest rights are granted under the Forest Rights Act. Forest Right is not even mentioned in your environmental impact assessment report and in the Presentation. The collective forest rights given to tribals and villagers are likely to be affected by the project.

At this time, the chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel opined that the consent may not have been given here. There may be other reasons for that. On this occasion Ms. Ulka Mahajan opined that collective forest rights are given exclusively to the tribal community and villagers.

The report is expected to be prepared in accordance with the Biodiversity Act and the District Bio-diversity Committee is expected to first approve the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to comply with the criteria set out in the Biodiversity Act.

The second point is that according to the Forest Rights Act. All the forest management rights are given to the tribal community and the villagers and the same has not considered in this report. Not a word is said in the report that their collective forest rights will be affected. The project proponent replied that the issue

does not apply here, if the Forest Rights Act is applicable, the guidelines will be followed and recorded in the final EIA report.

The Chairperson agreed that it would be recorded in the minutes.

All the rules and directives are totally violated by the Project Proponent while conducting this public hearing. It is mandatory to make available all the relevant documents 30 days in advance at Tahsil and Gram Panchayat offices. Though, it is shown on paper, the documents are not made available to Gram Sevak, Sarpanch and common people. This is major procedural lapse. Hence, the process of public hearing is illegal. The time limit is not followed, hence this public hearing is illegal.

Hence, this public hearing should be cancelled and now only next one month date be given. The Government Department is working on the subject for the last six months, but here no suitable time is not given to common people.

Though the public notice is published in local newspaper, the publicity is not given.

The next point comes since 2012, the process of land acquisition process is started. Land Acquisition Act came into existence after 2013. The Land Acquisition Act says that if land acquisition is not carried directly and if compensation is not accepted, there this Act comes into existence. As per 2013 Act, first Environment Impact Assessment, then Public Hearing and then Social Environment Hearing. This procedure is purposely violated, hence this Public Hearing is illegal. The guidelines of Maharashtra Government are violated by the project proponent.

The next point is about farmers, who are cultivating the rice in the said area. Also, there is canal. There are not mentioned in this report, and where-ever there are no rice fields, cereals are cultivated. It is not mentioned. Also, nothing is mentioned regarding other crops and vegetables.

The MIDC Act of 1961 and the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 were considered only for compensation, but the environmental value of the project has not been considered as per the 2013 Land Acquisition Act. This is an Environmental Public Hearing, but environment consultant is not considered Biodiversity of local area and the same is not well structured. The recommendations made by the District Committee under the Biodiversity Act have to be incorporated in the report. At the state level which is the Biodiversity Board. Its findings have not even been considered.

It will take time to study whether the water required for the project is available locally. Because all the water will be taken by MIDC and there is no mention anywhere whether water will be available to the people of the village or not.

Why MIDC did not solve the problem of water and sewage in Mahad MIDC. Even today, Savitri, Gandhari and Kala rivers are flowing with highly polluted water, which is now under the jurisdiction of MIDC. Everyone knows where the rivers flow.

Do what is promised here first. No information has been given as to where the soil will come from. According to our study, more than 250 incidences of land slide occurred in Mahad, Poladpur area. The reason is illegal mining carried in the hill tops areas. Therefore, the loss of the person who had the land and the serious situation regarding the loss of employment. This public hearing is illegal

The presentation outlines environmental maintenance costs. Only five lakh annual expenses. Expenditure for Environmental Vigilance Room is shown as 22 lakhs. These figures are ridiculous. This system will not be useful for the environment which is going to be harmed. Why are you not installing STP in Kadape grampanchayat ? You have polluted the rivers, it should be cleaned first. All the tall claims are made, which are totally false.

There is no mention of municipal solid waste disposal and treatment in the project. While conducting the environmental studies, there is no mention of where the survey was conducted, which sarpanches were met in which gram panchayats. It is mandatory to conduct the survey only after registering with the Gram Panchayat office. No correspondence is shown here.

In 10 k.m. radius, whatever Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) are there, it is not mentioned. All the area falls near Western Ghat. Kandalgaon falls under ESZ. We have demanded the list of villages which falls under 10 k.m. Nothing is given.

This public hearing process is illegal, ridiculous, anti-democratic. Hence, the public hearing should be stopped and next date after one month be given. Until then, we will study this report from our expert and come at a later date. Otherwise, we will have to raise our voice at the state and central government level. From here, all further answers should be given by the government officials. Because the government is bound to the people. We can ask the government for an answer.

The Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel directed to the project proponent regarding provide complete information about Eco Sensitive Zone. The project proponent said that initially this project was a 6,400 hectare project. We applied to MoEF&CC for project over total of 19 villages. It was later learned that four of these villages fall in the Eco Sensitive Zone and are close to Tamhini Ghat. So those four villages have been left out. Therefore, with the reduction of four villages, our area was reduced to 5040 hectares. When the local people asked the names of the four villages, they were told that it was Bhuvan, Wave Dewali, Patharshet and Bondshet.

Here Environment Consultant informed that MIDC has represented to the State and Central Government to exclude from the Eco Sensitive Zone list under the Western Ghats. Although the land has been acquired by MIDC, the Central Government has not taken any decision on it. Therefore, the MoEF&CC desired to exclude those four villages and submit the remaining proposals to the Government. Therefore, only 15 villages have been proposed.

The Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel directed to provide information on how much material was required for filling and where it would be brought from. The Project Proponent said that Slide No. 11 contains information about materials. He said the material would be drawn from environmentally permitted mines only.

7) Shri Janardhan Mankar, At- Kadape, Tal- Mangaon, Dist-Raigad.

He said that he totally supports the views expressed by Ms. Ulka tai.

Ms. Indira Gaikwad, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Panel stated that As per Environment Impact Assessement Notification, all the documents were made available to all Gram Panchayat Offices well before 30 days in advance. All the Gram Panchayat offices have given the acknowledgment receipts which are available with the local MPCB office.

Shri Vidya Sagar Killedar, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Panel informed that as per EIA Notification, 30 days in advance public notice was given in one local newspaper in Marathi and in one national newspaper in English. All the Gram Panchayat Offices and notified Government Offices were made available all the relevant documents. He read out the names and dates of submission of reports at the various government offices and the Gram Panchayat

offices. Member, Environment Public Hearing Panel informed that acknowledgment receipts are available with MPCB office.

At that time, some attendees objected that the documents were submitted to the Gram Panchayat, but the Gram Sevak and Sarpanch did not pass them to the general public. The chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel should inquire into this and make a report available.

Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel here said that local people in this meeting demanded that there should not be a Chemical Zone, in which they have objected for pharma companies. The explanation should be given. This time all the participants made the same mess. They objected that the public hearing of the project was a big mistake, because it was not conducted as per the rules. It should be cancelled immediately. Therefore, they demanded not to give any explanation as to what the pharma company is. Here Project Proponent informed that we are trying to bring companies of Pharma for formulation and Ayurvedic medicines.

Shri Mankar here remarked that MIDC officers are on the dais. We want list of industries, which industries will be established? Many leaders have given big big promises in the past that here engineering industries are going to come. The time limit was given five years. If the industry is going to commence in five years, then the local youth who will be available after five years should know which education and training he should get. For this, the guidance should be made available, as after years, the local youth should be empower for the work. He demanded that MIDC should clarify the Local Youth.

Here MIDC officers informed that Project Affected Person is whose land is affected. He/she falls under Local. Local means sons of soil and sons of soil should be given 80% of the job.

Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel remarked that the discussions should be made on the subject matter. It is shown in the Presentation that 71% land acquisition is completed. Project officials said the land is being acquired by consensus. Remuneration is given only to the account holders whose names are available.

For river pollution, it is informed that STP will be constructed. Most of companies will be made compulsory for ZLD i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge.

Here local people expressed their dissatisfaction. Chairperson clarified that the effluent after treatment will be reused in the process. In any case, the effluent will not go outside the industrial estate is the promise made in the Presentation.

8) Shri Dilip Vinayak Uttekar, Residence-Kumbharne

If the land acquisition process has been going on for the last ten years, then it should be clarified why the public hearing is being held now.

The Environmental Consultant replied that as per the 2006 notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, an environmental study of 10 km radius of the project and then its prior public hearings on environmental issues are mandatory. He said that since this project is a government project, it has to be approved at various levels. So there is a delay.

Project Proponent said it was mandatory to hold a public hearing first as it was mandatory to obtain Environmental Clearance. This hearing is being held for that. Your legitimate demands will definitely be considered.

Many of the people present at the time asked whether the demands as per the suggestions made by us, would be approved, whether it would have to be called back to the public hearing. The Project Proponent replied that the demands would be taken up at appropriate levels.

9) Mr. Rohan Shinde

He is a company secretary. He said that the NIC code of various types of industries need to be given by the central government. Ayurvedic and pharma companies have different codes. GST codes are different. This is not the same categorization. At this time, the Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel asked the audience to listen to the views of the Project Proponent.

Project Proponent here informed that only ayurvedic and bio-tech industries will be allowed as their pollution level is very less. He further said that in Food Category, only Dal Mill, Rice Mill, Ata Mill only will be given permission.

At this moment, Chairperson asked why local people do not want food industries dal mill, poha mill. The participants said that food and pharma industries will be used as a back door entry to set up chemical industries. Thus, only Engineering industries should be allowed.

Here Shri Rohan Shinde informed that the NIC codes of Ayurvedic and Pharma are different. He demanded to know NIC code of Ayurvedic companies.

I present my thoughts here as a farmer. The presentation mentions that the farmer was not farming. So it was being recorded on 7/12, how was it happening?

Second point is of fishing, it was mentioned that he was fishing only for his own subsistence.

The third point is that the task of getting the public hearing documents to the citizens well in advance is not carried properly by the concerned authorities. It is clear from the discussion that this public hearing did not reach the general public. However, I reiterate the views of Ulkatai and others and request that this public hearing be adjourned.

Chairperson asked here that whether it is mentioned that farmers were not carrying agricultural activities. The participants informed that it is mentioned in the Presentation. However, the Environmental Consultant showed the slide mentioning that the major occupation in the site was agriculture and that the major crop is paddy and number of secondary crops are grown such as pulses, cereals and vegetables.

10) Shri Janardhan Mankar, At-Kadape, Tal-Mangaon, Dist – Raigad.

Only Rs. 5 lakh has been set aside for environmental management in the proposal. This should be clarified. The Project Proponent said that capital budget of Rs. 25 crore has been set aside to compensate for the environmental management while developing the project. It will cost Rs 4-5 crore per year for operation & maintenance, that amount will not be reduced.

Though MPCB has handed over the relevant documents to respective Gram Panchayat Offices, Gram Panchayat has not given Oral Announcement (davandi) and did not call meeting (chavadi meeting). On this point, this Public Hearing should be postponed.

During the discussion, the Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel expressed the view that the funds reserved for environmental protection be looked into and suggested to take appropriate decision in this regard.

Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel remarked that during the discussions, all the participants several times raised the questions regarding environmental survey, when and where it is carried. If Sarpanch of particular

village does not know when the survey is carried in the village, hence name of the villages be read here. Here all the participants said that only reading of the villages will not be acceptable. This survey is bogus survey.

11) Shri Devendra Gaikwad, Kisansabha President, Nizampur

The meeting started on 12 noon. Its 3 o' clock. From the discussions, it seems that if the local people says that the survey is not carried, it is not carried. Similarly, even though the project seems to be opposed, you are forcibly raising issues. Even village leaders and people's representatives do not know when the survey was conducted. The people's representatives have complete knowledge of the village. They don't know when the survey was done, which means it's different. You are forcibly moving this meeting forward. However, the meeting should be called after one month. This Nizampur village was affected by MIDC 25 years ago. The Nizampur is transferred in I-1 zone. So, the construction has stopped here.

This is the third time that MIDC are bringing it back here. Now it has been said that Poha Mill and Rice Mill will be brought here in MIDC, then why take Poha Mill here? We want MIDC, there are one or two unemployed in every household. But why not nothing is done since last 25 years? This meeting should be stopped and reconvened.

At this time, the Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel on said that these issues came up here because it is a public hearing meeting. This is a meeting to share your thoughts, suggestions, comments and objections. No decision is made here. Our construction has stopped for the last 25 years. This meeting is to take note of it and inform the government about it.

At this moment, Ms. Ulka Mahajan objected that our demand is that all the suggestions and objections should be taken in the minutes of the meeting. However, according to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, one-month advance EIA report and Executive Summary in local language i.e. here in Marathi should be made available for study to local people before the date of public hearing. It is mandatory. Here, there was no time to study. She asked all participants loudly whether this is acceptable to all, everyone supported it.

Project Proponent here informed in the meeting that important points have been discussed. It is informed in the meeting that MIDC came here twice, hence we are

unable to carry any construction activities. But this to inform all that MIDC has not at all acquired the land. Due to zoning, there might be restrictions. But we have noted the points and it will be brought to the notice of superiors.

Here Shri Rohan Shinde, one of the participants informed that his father has 12 acres of land, but he cannot build the house.

Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel appealed all to raise any points/issues.

12) Shri Ramji Kadam

He urged Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel to respect the feelings of the entire participants and to stop the proceedings of this Public Hearing and again call the same after one month. Many people cannot tell their grievances orally, hence enough time limit should be given to submit the written suggestions/objections.

Chairperson of the Environmental Public Hearing Panel informed that those who desire to submit their suggestions, objections in writing, can submit it to Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Mahad, within the next 15 days. It will be submitted to Govt. of India. At this moment, most of the participants orally shouted No No. Ms. Ulka Mahajan said that this meeting is illegal. She remarked that as this is Open Public Hearing, Investigation also be Open.

13) Shri Ananta Gadge, Tal – Roha, Dist – Raigad

Without taking into confidence, MIDC has acquired the land. We did not get compensation. MIDC says that the land is taken mutually, but there was no mutual understanding for compensation. Govt. has made farmers landless. Hence, one person from each family should get job in MIDC and farmers should get annual income.

14) Shri Sayaji More, Residence – At- Pansai, Tal- Mangaon, Dist- Raigad.

Our land is given for industrial development. Hence, 85% of compensation of developed plot should be given to farmers.

The Project Proponent (MIDC) said that we have not acquired the land by force, we have done it by consent. Compensation is paid on a case-by-case basis. The farmer's compensation is credited.

Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel here informed that written objections, suggestions can be submitted to local MPCB office at Mahad and the time limit is given 15 days. It will submitted to Government for necessary action.

The Regional Officer, MPCB and Member, Environmental Public Hearing Panel stated that all the issues, suggestions, objections have been noted and 15 days have been given for filing written suggestions and objections. It will submitted along with the Minutes of the Meeting and the Final Environmental Impact Assessment report to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision for it.

Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Panel while concluding the meeting said that 15 days' time limit is given to submit written suggestions, objections. She thanked all for attending the meeting and declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

The number of written suggestions/objections received during the hearing :- 9

The number of written suggestions/objections received after the hearing :- 2

(Indira Gaikwad)

Convener,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Mahad

(Vidyasagar Killedar)

Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

I/c. Regional Officer,
MPCB, Raigad

(Dr. Padmashri Bainade)

Chairperson,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Additional District Magistrate, Raigad,
District – Raigad