

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION PROJECT OF CEMENT PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF STANDALONE GRINDING UNIT FROM 4.0 MILLION TPA TO 7.0 MILLION TPA AT HOTGI CEMENT WORKS, AT POST – HOTGI STATION AND HIPLE VILLAGES, TALUKA – SOUTH SOLAPUR, DISTRICT – SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S ULTRA TECH CEMENT LIMITED (UTCL), 'B' WING , AHURA CENTRE, 1st FLOOR, MAHAKALI CAVES ROAD, ANDHERI EAST, MUMBAI – 400 093, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed expansion project of Cement Production Capacity of Standalone Grinding Unit From 4.0 Million TPA to 7.0 Million TPA at Hotgi Cement Works, At Post – Hotgi Station and Hiple Villages, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s Ultra Tech Cement Limited (UTCL), 'B' Wing, Ahura Centre, 1st Floor, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri East, Mumbai – 400 093, Maharashtra was conducted on Thursday, the 30th November, 2023 at the site of the said industry on 12.00 noon.

Shri. Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Dadasaheb Kamble, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri. Ravindra Andhale, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF &



CC, Gol) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Ultra Tech Cement Limited (UTCL), 'B' Wing, Ahura Centre, 1st Floor, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri East, Mumbai – 400 093, Maharashtra to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for their proposed expansion project of Cement Production Capacity of Standalone Grinding Unit From 4.0 Million TPA to 7.0 Million TPA at Hotgi Cement Works, At Post – Hotgi Station and Hiple Villages, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of proposed project falls under B –(Brown Field Project) 3 (b) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report on 13-08-2023 to the, Ministry of Environment & Climate Chage, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai and it has been considered and given online approval on 14-08-2023.

After sanction from District Collector, Solapur to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Thursday, the 30th November, 2023 at 12.00 noon, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, Gol), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai



has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E-79 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-231110- FTS- 0095 dated 10/11/2023 as under:-

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1) District Magistrate-Solapur
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Pune,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Solapur | Convener |

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sanchar for Marathi and in daily Newspaper Divya Marathi for English on 30th October, 2023. 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 in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under:-

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) District Collector, Solapur;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Solapur;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur;



- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office -South Solapur, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur;
- 6) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti - South Solapur, District – Solapur;
- 6) Gram Panchayat Offices related to – Mouje – Hanamgaon, Shingadgaon, Hiple, Auj, Aherwadi, Hotgi Station, Hotgi , District – Solapur;
- 7) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 8) Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
- 9) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 3rd Floor, Jog Centre, Old Mumbai Pune Road, Wakadewadi, Pune 400 003
- 10) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, B/4, Bali Building, Civil Lines, Opp. Government Milk Diary, Sat Rasta, Solapur – 413 003;
- 11) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai;

Convener informed that 44 suggestions / objections have been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Solapur regarding the proposed project

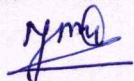
Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.



Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairperson will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same He requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project. He informed that the proposed cost for the proposed project is Rupees 350.0 crores. The capital cost for Environment Management will be Rupees 25.0 crores and Recurring cost will be Rupees 1.75 crores per year.

Environmental Consultant informed that the said project will provide contractual jobs to 700 persons and 20 persons regular jobs. After the completion of the project, direct employment opportunity to around 10 persons and 50 persons will get contractual jobs. Preference will be given to local people. Similarly, due to the said project, there will be a huge increase in the indirect business in the area.



After the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. While asking questions, full name and residential address should be informed.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environmental Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent/ Project Environment Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee :-

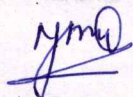
1) Shri Jagannath Gaikwad, Sarpanch, Hotgi Station, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur:-

No permission has been taken from our Gram Panchayat for the expansion of this third unit. Applications have been submitted to the Collector's Office, Solapur, local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Ultra-Tech Company from time to time regarding the pollution problems caused by the said factory to the local farmers.

However, compensation should be paid by the company regarding the damage to the farmers due to the pollution of the project. If the company has planned any policy in this regard, please inform about it.

Similarly, many young boys and girls are unemployed in Hotgi Station Gram Panchayat area. However, according to their educational qualification, it is requested that the young boys and girls of Hotgi Station Gram Panchayat area should be given employment contracts in the project.

Project Proponent has helped in various aspects like aids to the school, women empowerment through CSR funds. Sewing machines have been made available to women a few days ago.



Young boys and girls in the village are facing many big problems. I earnestly request that the local boys and girls should be given job opportunities in the project.

Project should pay the Gram Panchayat tax as assessed as per the new rules of 2015 and 2018. Project was earlier paying Rs. 27 lakhs and 46 lakh rupees now required to be paid as per Gram Panchayat Rules. It is required to pay the difference from 2018 onwards. It is requested to pay the difference by the project.

2) Shri Bhagwan Shivram Vavare, Chairman, Ultra-Tech Cement (Lok Kalyan Union) -

I am raising the issue of Mauje Hotgi station and Mauje Hipale village.

Here in 1993, the first unit of this project was started at Mauje Hotgi station and Mauje Hipale village. 2008-09 second unit and now third unit is starting in 2023-24. From 1993-2023, the farmers in the project area are suffering a lot from the company's pollution. In this regard, the local residents have repeatedly written complaints to the company, District Collector Office, Local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune;

Hence, the government official, MPCB officials should personally inspect the fields of local farmers and those who have registered complaints. Compensation should be given to the affected farmers. Also, the company should take care not to fall ash on the nearby fields.

If the expansion project requires 50 contract people, there are unemployed youths in our Hotgi Station Gram Panchayat and Hipale area. Ten people will be required for permanent. However, there is a request on behalf of Hotgi station and Hipale that the youths of our area



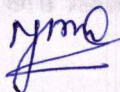
should be given job opportunities keeping in mind the educational qualification in the expansion project.

It is further requested that from 1993 to 2023, Ultra Tech Cement has a railway gate on Hotgi to Karajagi road. Two units are running in the project. The gate closes 5-7 times a day. Once the gate is closed, it takes 45 minutes to open it again. This causes traffic jams. Ambulances, pregnant women going for childbirth, old people and patients suffer from unnecessary traffic jams. They also close the gate to send the company's raw materials and final products. The vegetable market is near the Hotagi station. There is a traffic jam. However, we demand that an emergency gate should be made available to us there. Having to wait for 45-50 minutes, the patient has to stay without medical treatment. Therefore, the patient is more likely to die. Hence, an emergency gate should be provided immediately;

Two months ago, a major accident took place near Aundh village. 3-4 local persons died in it. There is heavy traffic due to cement projects and Siddheshwar factory in the area, as villagers have to go for the duty. Local women sit to sell their vegetables at the vegetable market near Hotgi Station. Hence, Ultra-Tech company should build a vegetable market. Local Gram Panchayat here can provide an alternative place for it. It is requested to Project Management to co-operate to avoid possible accidents.

3) Shri Subhash Ramchandra Patole, Dy.Sarpanch, Hotgi Station Grampanchayat, Taluka-South Solapur, District – Solapur :-

The relationship between Project Proponent and the village should be harmonious in all respects. It is necessary for progress. Congratulations to the company for its co-operation in social activities.



However, a joint inspection tour should be conducted by the company and joint report should be prepared to get an idea of the farmers' problems, how much ash generated from the factory fallen on the fields, how many crops have been damaged. Farmers who have been affected by pollution, have strong emotions which are right. They need immediate justice.

Also, while giving job opportunities to local people, priority should be given to project affected farmers first and then jobs should be given to other local people.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested the participants not to raise the same issues. Similarly, it was suggested that local people can submit their written suggestions/objections, if they desire. objections.

4) Shri. Subhash Lokhande, Former Dy. Sarpanch, Hotgi Station Grampanchayat, Taluka-South Solapur, District – Solapur :-

It is also right to expect job opportunities by local young boys and girls when this multi-national company starts in this drought prone rural area. Company through its CSR fund supported to implement programmes in education, health, women empowerment in a proper manner. On the day of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Mahanirvana Day, blood donation camp is organized through Ultra-Tech Company.

However, the views and objections in respect of company's pollution due to which local farmers are suffering and as per the suggestions made in the meeting, a Joint Site Inspection and the inspection of the crops of the affected farmers should be carried and compensation should be given to them.



From Hotgi village to Hotgi station, there is 2-2 ½ kilometer distance. It is a dangerous journey. Many of your workers are coming from there. Literally, there is a great pandemonium of death. Companies here are paying tax of several crores of rupees to the Government. However, we are expecting an immediate positive decision regarding this road from collector office. Local Gram Panchayat is also responsible for this, but the government and the company should find a way regarding this road.

The expansion and progress of the company is welcome, but at the same time the workers who have been in the company for 26-27 years are getting very meager wages. Along with the expansion of the company, the workers should also be sanctioned new wages scheme. Their problems are also burning issues.

There will not be any objection from the area for the expansion, but the company should compensate the farmers whose crops were damaged due to ash fallen on their crops. Company has implemented many social activities in the last 2-3 years. However, justice should be given to local farmers and company workers. Also, under the Women Empowerment Scheme, a Hall/Bhavan should be built for women's use. We are not opposing to the expansion as planned by the company. But those who are suffering from the company's pollution should be given justice and priority for job opportunities be given to them and their children in the project and afterwards give employment to the local people.

5) Shri. Nisar Ahmed Kamble, Former Sarpanch, Hotgi Grampanchayat, Present Gram Panchayat Member :-



Here, all the issues have been raised so far. But our locality/area is not at all developing, we have to talk about it. In Ward no.4, not even a single rupee has been spent. Also, the soil of the foundation of the wall fence of the school is thrown inside the school ground. However, the work of removing the soil should be started as soon as possible. Firm House has been closed since 2018. It is not turned on. The resolution passed for that purpose is also illegal. However, tax should be collected as per rules. Tax should be paid as per the difference and the assessed value.

Also, the company did good work on ward no.1,2,3, but left my ward no.4. There are slum areas and huts in our ward. However, work should be done in our ward as well.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested all the participants to raise any new issues. Also, your point should be expressed briefly.

6) Shri Yuvraj Pandhari Jadhav, Residence – Hiple, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur -

I am a farmer. Many points were raised by the previous participants, so we have nothing left to say. Hipale village is more affected by the pollution of this project than Hotgi village. So, we Hipale villagers have demonstrations, marches were taken out in front of the company, as well as many written representations have been submitted to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur. However, our complaints have not been resolved. We have high hopes for this third unit expansion.

There are 14-15 children in our village who have requisite educational qualification for the company. However, while giving job opportunities, first priority should be given to our young boys and girls of Hiple village, then youths of Hotgi village should be given an opportunity.



Due to ash generated from the company, the agriculture fields of Hipale village have been damaged and people are suffering from various health issues. Hence, my demand is that visit and spot inspection of the fields and wells of Hipale village should be carried. Every well and every farm should be inspected. The health of the people in the village is at risk. Company has co-operated Hipale village in some social work.

The next objection is that Company Administration treats local people in a humiliating manner. If Hipale village is not considered, we will eventually have to restart our agitation and hunger strike.

7) Shri Shivaji Narayan Birajdar, Residence – Hipale, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur:-

My lemon orchard/farm is adjacent to the company. Due to the ash of the company fallen on my fields, the tops of the trees have also been burnt. If local people go to the company for complain, the company's security officers forcefully drive away and they are treated very humiliatingly. Now, Government and MPCB officials should immediately come and inspect my farm. I do contractual job in the company, whereas contractual workers get very inferior treatment. Very discriminatory behavior is given by the company administration.

Here the Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to briefly raise the issues.

8) Shri Bapu Abaji Waghmode, Residence – Hipale, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur:-

The issues raised here are absolutely true.

9) Shri Samarth Dilip Survase, Residence – Hipale, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur :-



I am a farmer. Our farm is adjacent to the district and I have been complaining about the company's pollution since before 2017 to the Collector Office, Solapur, Tasildar, South Solapur, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur. My grandfather was also complaining. A large quantity of ash is falling on the farm crops. A statement has been given back in the last week itself. But pollution control board should give us justice. I am showing the video of fallen ash on the crops.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that you may raise any suggestion or objection but showing of video will not be allowed.

At this time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this is environmental public hearing, hence video cannot be shown here. If there is any damage of the crops, CD of the said video can be prepared and be submitted to Environment Public Hearing Committee. It will be submitted to the Government along with the minutes of the meeting. There will be CD of the this meeting also. Hence your CD will be submitted alongwith it.

10) Shri Sunil Baban Patil, Patilvasti, Residene – Hiple, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur:-

We have a basti/settlement of thirty people right next to the Birla company. About 100 people live there. We are repeatedly complaining and coming to the gate. The gate was closed. My sister was in the ambulance, repeatedly begging for the gate to be opened. So I was being threatened that RPF will be brought. Even the ambulance is not stopped if the Prime Minister's convoy is passing. If there had been a slight delay, the patient would have died, who would be responsible?

Local people here hope that if the company is expanding, we local people expect progress, development from the company. But some

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officials of the project speak abusively even on the phone. We have his call records. Despite giving a statement to the project officers, we are not being provided with light.

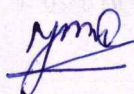
The road here is very bad, but many workers are sent home if they come late two minutes to arrive. Hundreds of our people object to this project expansion. Company should not show its money strength. Otherwise, we will have to show our strength. Company administration says that we have a contract for three thousand trucks. Here local people die due to this heavy traffic.

On this occasion, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this public hearing is about environment and if there are any environmental suggestions, objections regarding the proposed expansion project, it should be raised.

Chairman of the Committee said that convert your video to CD and hand over it to Environment Public Hearing Committee. It will be submitted along with the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to the Government. An Expert Committee there will take appropriate decision in this regard.

**11) Shri Avinash Namdeo Patil, Patil Vasti, Residence-Hiple,
Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur :-**

I applied in 2017 and also showed the video. At that time, the company was ready to pay Rs 5,000 to 10,000 as compensation. Don't know what happened after that, still haven't received anything.



Explanation should be given regarding Klinker in the project. Also, vegetation does not grow due to falling of ash of the company on the fields. Company carried out reforms in Gram Panchayats Hotgi and Hupale. So what did they do to improve agriculture activities?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that your point has been noted and you can submit your written suggestions or objections.

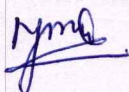
12) Shri Mallikarjun Ramchandra Mavhale, Residence-Hiple, Taluka-South Solapur, Dist - Solapur:-

I am a farmer. The situation told here by the participants so far is the true situation. This company has been operating since 1993 and there is a lot of pollution around. Cement falls near Hotgi station area. Ash is falling in all the fields around Hotgi Station, Hipale. Ash generated from the company falls on jowar, bajari, wheat, vineyards, lemon farms. I own a ten-acre garden.

Company officials must personally visit and inspect. The ash falls on lemons, grapes, the fruits are soiled/perished. Hence, a Committee should be constituted consisting of a government official and MPCB officials. They should inspect all the affected areas and the farms and wells of all the affected farmers.

Compensation should be given per acre. Company pays compensation per acre to their Malkhed unit, why not here? However, proper compensation should be given to the affected farmers.

There is a demand from all the villagers of Hotgi and Hipale that Siddheshwar Hospital is available here. So it is necessary to provide a hospital for the poor people by Birla group, a multi national group. It is



the demand of all. There is plenty of space here. A multi specialty hospital with modern equipment should be developed.

13) Shri Arvind Prakash Dhone, Residence – Hotgi Station Grampanchayat, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur :-

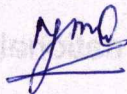
The issues raised here by all the affected persons, affected farmers are true. Everyone has presented their feelings. Company administration has done development works. So, we request that there should be a separate scheme for the affected farmers, from which the farmers should get pension, compensation for affected crops.

Also, a doctor should be appointed by the company for the health problems of the project area and he/she should visit the villages in the project area twice every week to examine the patients. They should be given free medical advice and medication.

Company has helped a lot so far. Zilla Parishad schools, some roads have been improved. The expansion is happening, it is good, but considering the current situation, the wages of workers who have been working for many years should be increased.

14) Shri Pundlik Ramchandra Tende, Residence – Hiple, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur:-

I have a fourteen acre of agriculture fields next to the company compound. This farm does not produce four quintals of grains So, what we can eat? Due to this pollution, my father lost both his eyes and died. Also my family also lost both their eyes due to this pollution. When I work in the field, my eyes are also irritating due to company's dust.



If you run the company for profit, what is the benefit to our farmers? I am saying this because I am affected by the company. Company is increasing production for their benefit, while the farmers have no benefit. If any government official comes, the water is sprinkled. However, measures should be taken immediately in this regard, otherwise I will commit suicide in front of the gate.

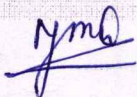
15) Sou. Nagarbai Kisan Mali, Residence – Hiple, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur:-

My eyes have been operated. We have not studied school, but are working with courage. This pollution is damaging our eyes. Adjacent to the company wall is our agriculture field. Crops in the fields are being damaged due to pollution from the company. Crop production has decreased. The vegetables brought from the field is showing, how we can eat?

Hence, control the pollution. Look at us, pollution spoils all vegetables, crops, no one buys vegetables. So how do we survive? So tell us what we should do. Then start your company.

16) Sou. Varsharani Amarnath Ukide, Residence – Hiple, Taluka – South Solapur, Dist – Solapur -

Greetings to all dignitaries present in the meeting. Company administration has done good work in health, road repair. The village has improved a lot since the company came. School materials are being provided well. Women empowerment program is being implemented properly.



However, for women empowerment, beauty parlour courses, computer education, sewing education should be provided to the women and children of our village. Company do co-operates, but Company should extend more co-operation to the village. Children in our village have to walk to school, for that they should be provided with school bus. There should be ease from old Hiple to new Hople. We are at a disadvantage as there is no space for women to come together. However, a big hall should be built for the women of the village. Also, the inconvenience expressed by the people of the village in the meeting should be removed. Company is expanding, the village should also be developed, the inconveniences should be removed.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that in this meeting, Environmental Public Hearing Committee has given sufficient opportunity to all participants to raise their suggestions, objections and views. However, if the participants desires to submit their suggestions, objections, they can submit them in written form. He directed Project Proponent to give a joint reply to the questions and objections raised by the participants.

Project Proponent thanked everyone first while answering collectively -

Project Proponent said that the land was given for the project. Therefore, the project affected persons have the right to demand. Suggestions and objections were duly recorded in the meeting. Everyone expressed concern about pollution issues.



Project Proponent said that now most advanced pollution control systems are available and they have to be installed in the project. Now the new bag house system has come. Earlier stack/chimneys were allowed 150 milligrams of smoke, now only 30 milligrams are allowed. However, the prescribed standards as laid down by the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India will definitely be followed. In fact, our project will emit less pollution than the prescribed standards.

Now about agricultural pollution. This has been discussed yesterday and cattle will be erected on the side where there is agricultural pollution, so that the pollution can be reduced. However, further action will be taken in this regard only by taking the concerned farmers and local people into confidence. Project Administration claims that there is less pollution here, as all the goods are brought here by rail.

A participant asked what is Clinker? So the raw material we use to make cement here does not contain any chemicals. Limestone is burnt to make cement. In the meeting, no one said no to the project, but suggested to remove the errors/problems that are there.

Clinker is not stored outside, it is in a silo. We are going to implement state of the art pollution control system. Bag filters will be installed.

Many asked questions about the job opportunities in the project. Availability of jobs is the problem of the country. While employment will be provided according to the need of the project and educational qualification, the first priority will be given to the project affected people and then to the local people. In the project, 50% people of Solapur district

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have been given job opportunities. 80% of the people here are from here. Outsiders are needed for technical positions.

Some participants have raised serious objections regarding the railway gate. Company Administration agrees with it. Railways have some rules in this regard. Local people will be taken along and discussed with the railway officials. District Collector office will be requested to make a way in this regard and instruct the railways to install the sensor at the gate before the arrival of the train.

Participants raised the issue of salary hike. In this project, wages higher than the salary range approved by the state government for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers are paid.

Participants have suggested about Gram Panchayat Tax. Gram panchayat tax will be paid as per the decision passed by the government from time to time

We have done some social work under CSR fund, it has also been noted by the participants. Some suggested building a state-of-the-art hospital in the area. So the project administration requests that the people of the project affected villages submit their demands in writing. It should be prioritized. Accordingly, the project management will definitely take further action

This is the promise of project management. If it costs a little more, the company will spend it.

He said that Ultra-Tech Cement is committed to sustainable development of the area. Two hundred trucks will arrive for the project every day. So we don't rule out pollution.



Project Proponent said that monitoring of the dust/ash complaint will be done in that village tomorrow itself. The monitoring will be carried at the complainant's house also. If it is more than the prescribed limits, action will be taken. The pollution that is happening in the area includes ultra-tech and other factors and companies.

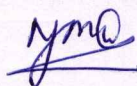
Here one participant complained about power supply. So this issue will be resolved by the company. There are two big villages like Hotgi Station and Hupale and other villages. A list of social works should be given after deciding the common priorities. It will definitely be considered.

Company has set aside Rs. 25 crores for Environmental Management Plan.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that many local people have raised their thoughts, suggestions and objections in the public hearing. If anyone still wants to register suggestions, objections, they can submit them in written form. Project Administration has responded to the issues raised by the locals. The public hearing was for the potential environmental impacts of the proposed expansion project.

Many farmers have raised objections regarding the pollution of crops and fields. The same will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and the said minutes will be submitted to the government along with the revised environmental impact assessment report, written suggestions/objections received.

Many participants raised local issues other than the environment. However, it is suggested to the Company Administration that the company administration should call a meeting in this regard and take a positive and



amicable solution. In the meeting, health issues, the impact of the company's production on the health of the local people have been raised. It has been noted.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending the meeting and declared that the Environment Public Hearing is concluded.

The 44 suggestions/objections/comments received regarding project expansion (Copy enclosed)

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.



(Nikhil More)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Solapur



(Ravindra Andhale)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Pune



(Dadasaheb Kamble)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur,
District – Solapur