

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing for Proposed 18 no. sand ghats located in Bhandara district namely Yenoda, Junona, Gudegaon, Pauni, Shivnala, Walni, Itgaon, Kurza, Taluka Pauni, Bamhni, Tamaswadi, Panjra (Re), Taluka Tumsar, Betala (South), Betala (North), Nilaj Bu, Taluka Mohadi, Moharna -1, Nanded, Gavrala -A, Gavrala -B Tq Lakhandur, for year 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 DTD. 30/01/2024. TIME 10.00 A.M, at Collector Office, Bhandara.

As per Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India Notification dated 14.09.2006 amended dated 1.12.2009, Environmental Public hearing was conducted for proposed 18 no. sand ghats Yenoda, Junona, Gudegaon, Pauni, Shivnala, Walni, Itgaon, Kurza, Taluka Pauni, Bamhni, Tamaswadi, Panjra (Re), Taluka Tumsar, Betala (South), Betala (North), Nilaj Bu, Taluka Mohadi, Moharna -1, Nanded, Gavrala -A, Gavrala -B Tq Lakhandur, located in Bhandara district, for the years 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Shreepati More, Additional District Collector, Bhandara. Ms. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur was member of public hearing panel, and Shri. Kishor Pusadkar, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Bhandara acted as a convener. Public Hearing conducted on 30.01.2024, at 10.00 A.M. with the permission of the Chairman of Public hearing, at Zilha Niyojan Bhavan, Collector Office, Bhandara. Shri Rohan Thaware, District Mining Officer, Bhandara also attended said public hearing. Attendance of People present during Public Hearing is attached as **(Annexure-I.)**

BACKGROUND :

The proposed sand mining projects attract provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006. District Mining Officer, Collector Office, Bhandara has requested Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, to conduct public hearing for their proposed 18 no. sand ghats (1.0 to 5.0 hectare) in Bhandara district for the years 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, vide letter dated 20.12.2023 & 22.11.2023. Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter no.MPCB/JD(WPC)/Env-PH/B-231221-FTS-0108 dtd 21.12.2023 directed to initiate public hearing process.

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:

With permission of the Chairman of Public Hearing, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara & convenor has started Public Hearing procedure by welcoming Chairman, Member of the public hearing panel, officers & public present during hearing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara, informed that Public Hearing is conducted under provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and amended thereof for recording views / objects / suggestions of participants regarding proposed project, and same will be communicated to the

Competent Committee. It was also clarified that this panel has not the right to take any decision for accordance or any kind of approval to the project and appealed participants to express their views and suggestion orally or in writing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara further said that notices for public hearing were published in two local widely circulated newspapers i.e. the 'The Hitavada' (English) and 'Lokmat' (Marathi) on 30.12.2023 for thirty days period. Copies of the same are enclosed as **(Annexure-II.)**

Copies of Executive summary both in English and Marathi, with Environment Management Plan and other information/documents submitted by Project proponent were made available to the public by making these documents available in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayat as per MoEF GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments, and objections of the public were called in writing during the notice period of publication of notice. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E-100/2024 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-240111-FTS-0198 dtd. 11/01/2024. Copy enclosed as **(Annexure-III)**. No objections/suggestions in writing received before & during public hearing.

Executive summary in English and Marathi along with soft copy were kept in the following offices for information and study of concerns and asked to give extensive publicity.

- 1) Collector Office, Bhandara.
- 2) Zilla Parishad Office, Bhandara.
- 3) District Industries Centre, Bhandara.
- 4) Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhandara, Dist. Bhandara.
- 5) Sub-Divisional Officer, Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.
- 6) Sub-Divisional Officer, Sakoli, Dist. Bhandara.
- 7) Tehsil Office Bhandara, Dist. Bhandara.
- 8) Tehsil Office Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 9) Tehsil Office Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.
- 10) Tehsil Office Mohadi, Dist. Bhandara.
- 11) Tehsil Office Lakhandur, Dist. Bhandara.
- 12) Regional Office, M.P.C.Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 13) Department of Environment & Climate Change, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Madam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.

- 14) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Headquarters, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Mala, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opposite Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-400022.
- 15) Regional Office (West Central Region), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Block, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
- 16) Gram Panchayat Office, Yenoda, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 17) Gram Panchayat Office, Junona, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 18) Gram Panchayat Office, Gudegaon, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 19) Gram Panchayat Office, Pauni, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 20) Gram Panchayat Office, Shivnala, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 21) Gram Panchayat Office, Walni, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 22) Gram Panchayat Office, Itgaon, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 23) Gram Panchayat Office, Kurza, Tq. Pauni, Dist. Bhandara.
- 24) Gram Panchayat Office, Bamhni, Tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.
- 25) Gram Panchayat Office, Tamaswadi, Tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.
- 26) Gram Panchayat Office, Panjra (Re), Tq. Tumsar, Dist. Bhandara.
- 27) Gram Panchayat Office, Betala, Tq. Mohadi, Dist. Bhandara.
- 28) Gram Panchayat Office, Nilaj Bu., Tq. Mohadi, Dist. Bhandara.
- 29) Gram Panchayat Office, Moharna , Tq. Lakhandur, Dist. Bhandara.
- 30) Gram Panchayat Office, Nanded, Tq. Lakhandur, Dist. Bhandara.
- 31) Gram Panchayat Office, Gavrala , Tq. Lakhandur, Dist. Bhandara.

Documents were also hosted on the Board's website www.mpcb.gov.in.

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer, Bhandara and Convener requested the project proponent to give their detailed presentation about proposed sand mining projects and Environmental issues related with it.

Accordingly, Shri Rohan Thaware, DMO briefed in short for proposals of sand ghats and their technical consultant gave detailed power point presentation of sand ghats in local language marathi comprising of sand ghats location, environmental aspects, mining methods, environmental management plans, occupational health and safety management, green belt development plans, project benefits, environmental management plan costs, etc.

Sub-Regional Officer & Convener Shri. Kishor Pusadkar has requested public present during hearing to express their views, comments, concern & suggestion for this proposed project, in writing as well as orally.

No written or oral objections were received regarding the proposed sand ghats from any attendees during the public hearing.

Sub-Regional Officer , M.P.C.Board, enquired about distance from sand ghat & proposed sand depot, sand transportation road, and measures to be taken to control air pollution. He further asked whether any fund has been reserved for maintenance of sand transportation roads. **Ms. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer**, discussed prioritizing local people for transportation and mining work at proposed sand mining sites.

District Mining Officer, Bhandara, mentioned that the distance between sand mining sites and sand depots is estimated to be approximately five kilometers, and people from villages will not be affected. Environmental management plans have been made to mitigate concerns about road maintenance. Approximately fifteen jobs will be created at each sand mining site, providing employment opportunities for locals.

Hon'ble Chairman, Public Hearing Committee: - said that Information about proposed sand mining sites has been provided and there are no doubts regarding it. It is assured that pollution control regulations will be followed for sand excavation, and everyone is in agreement. public hearing concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.



(Kishor Pusadkar)

Sub-Regional Officer

M.P.C. Board, Bhandara & Convener of
Public Hearing Panel



(Hema Deshpande)

Regional Officer,

MPC Board, Nagpur & Member of Public
Hearing Panel



(Shreepati More)

Additional District Collector, Bhandara
& Chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel