

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED MAULI IRON ORE BLOCK, VILLAGE-REDI (KANYAL), TALUKA-VENGURLA, DISTRICT- SINDHUDURG, MAHARASHTRA FOR MINING LEASE AREA – 24.26 HECTOR, IRON ORE PRODUCTION – 0.3 MILLION TONNES/ANNUM PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SOCIEDADE DE FOMENTO INDUSTRIAL PRIVATE LIMITED, MADGAON GOA.

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed Mauli Iron Ore Block, Village – Redi (Kanyal), Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg, Maharashtra for Mining Lease Area – 24.26 hector, Iron Ore Production -0.3 Million Tonnes/Annum proposed by Project Proponent M/s Sociedade De Fomento Industrial Private Limited, Madgaon, Goa was conducted on Tuesday, the 19th December, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. at Shri Devi Mauli Water Supply Scheme, Redi, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.

Shri Rahul D. Mote, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Machindra Sukate, Additional District Magistrate, Sindhudurg and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Jagannath S. Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur; and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Prashant Panvekar, Sub Divisional Officer-Sawantwadi, Dist – Sindhudurg; Shri Omkar Otari, Tahsildar, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg and 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, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009 and 14th August, 2018 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 on 04-09-2023 from Project Proponent M/s Sociedade De Fomento Industrial Private Limited, Margao, Salcette, Goa to conduct Environment Public Hearing for their proposed Mauli Iron Ore Block, Village – Redi (Kanyal), Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg, Maharashtra for Mining Lease Area – 24.26 hector, Iron Ore Production - 0.3 Million Tonnes/Annum.



Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A, Schedule No.1 (A) – Mines & Minerals which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi 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.

He informed that Project Proponent M/s Sociedade De Fomento Industrial Private Limited, Margao, Salcette, Goa has been declared as the "Preferred bidder" by the Government of Maharashtra in the public auction held on 06-04-2022. Subsequently Government of Maharashtra vide Letter of Intent (LOI) . No. MMN-0422/C.R.78/IND-9A, dated 20-05-2022 granted Mauli Iron Ore Block Mining Lease for iron ore in Village- Redi (Kanyal) Village, Vengurla Taluka, Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra State.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) to Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi on 18-11-2022 and it has been considered and given online approval on 06-02-2023.

Collector, Sindhudurg directed to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 19th December, 2023 at 11.00 morning, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2009, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 82 of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 231201- FTS- 0206 dated 01-12-2023 as under :-

- 1) District Magistrate, Sindhudurg
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate.
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Kolhapur,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur.
- 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Ratnagiri.

Chairman

Member

Convener

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri in the Local Newspaper in Daily Tarun Bharat for Marathi and in National Newspaper Indian Express for English on 16th November, 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, Sindhudurg;
- 3) General Manger, District Industries Center, Sindhudurg;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Office, Sindhudurg;
- 5) Sub Divisional Officer-Sawantwadi, Tal-Sawantwadi, District – Sindhudurg;
- 6) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Vengurla, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg;
- 6) Sarpanch/Gram Sevak, Grampanchayat Office – Redi, Taluka - Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg;
- 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, Udyog Bhavan, Kolhapur
- 10) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Central Administrative Building No.2, 2nd Floor, Collector Office, Ratnagiri – 415 612;
- 11) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board;

Convener informed that 80 suggestions/objections are received by the Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Ratnagiri.

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 Impact Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. 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 Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairman, Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project.

It is informed that Project Proponent M/s Sociedade De Fomento Industrial Private Limited, Madgaon, Goa has been declared as the "Preferred bidder" by the Government of Maharashtra in the public auction held on 06-04-2022. Subsequently Government of Maharashtra vide Letter of Intent (LOI) . No. MMN-0422/C.R.78/IND-9A, dated 20-05-2022 granted Mauli Iron Ore Block Mining Lease for iron ore in Village - Redi (Kanyal) Village, Vengurla Taluka, Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra State.

The total investment of the said project is 8 Crore. Whereas, the capital expenditure for environmental management is approximately Rs.5.6 lakhs, while the recurring expenditure is Rs.33.4 lakhs.

Green belt will be developed in the project and in the area. Similarly, funds were spent for the social needs of the local people over the past several years, it will be done in the future as well. Due to the said project, Government of India, Government of Maharashtra will get revenue in the form of Royalty, Corporate Tax, DMF, NMET. Similarly, a provision of Rs 0.44 crore has been made for Corporate Environmental Responsibility Action Plan.

19 direct and 103 indirect employment opportunity will be available in the said project. Similarly, there will be a huge increase in indirect business.

After the presentation, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee told the participants that the Project Environmental Consultant of the project has completed the presentation. Now participants are requested to present any suggestions, thoughts or objections regarding the

proposed project in environmental angle only. While raising suggestions, objections, full name and place of residence should be mentioned first.

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 Ramsingh Gopal Rane, Sarpanch,
Redi Grampanchayat, Taluka – Vengurla,
District – Sindhudurg :-**

Welcome to Redi Village. Since 1956, this mining business has been going on in Redi village and Redi village has not opposed any kind of project, it has always co-operated. About 350 trucks/tippers of Redi village are directly or indirectly used for this active mining business and the villagers of Redi village have got job opportunities directly/indirectly.

We are not against the mining business, but the issues of Redi village, the Redi village must get the facilities that the village needs, and all environmental rules must be followed strictly. The company has honored our request and in the last five years, the company has provided house repair and medical financial facilities in the village as per our request. HDPP pipeline has been provided for village drinking water from main tank to village costing Rupees 30-35 lakh as per our request. We are not against mining business. Also, when people of Redi and the people of other villages have met company officials personally, their problems have been solved. Also, if there is need for art, sports, health in Redi village, the company has provided financial assistance to them.

But along with this, facilities necessary for the village and environmental protection and conservation measures necessary for the village should be implemented. Here the main issue of Redi village is employment. Because 150 workers were working in the ongoing mining project. Some of them retired, some left the company. Also, the number of educated unemployed young boys and girls are high in the village. Directly and indirectly the people of Redi village were working and an opportunity should be given to local young boys and girls.

Give priority to landlords, we have no objection to that. There will be landowners from Kanyal, Tivarewadi, Nagolewadi, similarly the persons who have given land for the project or their heirs should definitely be given priority in job opportunities, but at the same time, those who do not have land, those are the local youths of Redi village and nearby revenue villages, they should be given job opportunities in the project according to their educational qualifications.



Youths of Redi village and nearby revenue villages should be given job opportunities in the project. Those educated unemployed should be directly and indirectly involved in employment according to their educational qualification. The youth here have to go to Goa due to lack of job opportunities, hence they should be provided jobs. While giving the employment the local people should be given employment opportunities as per the recommendations made by Gram Panchayat Office.

Next question is there is Primary Health Center (PHC) in Redi village, doctors are available there. However, according to the government rules, they cannot go anybody's house and examine the patients, the elderly, the bed ridden patients and advice medication. However, an advanced hospital providing 24 X 7 complete medical facilities should be developed by the company in Redi village. Company is being provide free medicines to the patients who come to the clinic. However, this 24 X 7 advanced hospital providing complete medical facilities should be built in 5-6 months.

Company has set up Water Filtration Plant as per our demand. However, according to government regulations, the water of Jeti river should be made available free of charge by the company in Redi village. One million liters of water would have been obtained through Water Filtration Plant. Water problems also arise here once the mine is operational. If Redi village gets water through Tilari, the water problem of Redi village will be solved.

On the side of this mineral blocks, there are houses of the villagers of our Tiwerewadi. The road goes by the side of the houses. However, the company should build a retaining wall of cement concrete to protect the locality there. Their houses should be secured. Therefore, the company must take care that the people there will not suffer from the company's pollution.

Company administration should discuss with the representatives of local people and the company should provide water for agriculture through pipes. A plan should be prepared as to how more land in revenue villages can be brought under irrigation. It is necessary to discuss with the Gram Panchayat in the project area for future water availability and planning for it. Because we villagers desire the project, similarly we need a plan for the development of the village, the village should be kept safe.

Company has helped the schools in the project area by providing computers, painting the school building, providing volunteers. Similarly, other problems of the school should be solved by the company. It is necessary to plan for the use of water at present and in future.

After the completion of any mining project that is going to be operated here, the areas should be replenished /refilled and planted with trees. The mining industry is not permanent one. Mining has to be stopped after a certain period of time. So, the company should plan and start another permanent business activities i.e. by using the materials here. It means that

after the closure of mining, the employees there can be transferred in another permanent business activities, so that future threat of becoming jobless of workers will be solved.

Similarly, along with this mining industry, permanent business activities should be developed here by the Project Proponent to solve the problems in the area. This will brought huge growth in indirect business here. Hence, District Administration is requested to help to bring other industries here to get job opportunities to educated people here.

The mining fund of Redi village has not been paid by the government to the revenue villages of Redi and surrounding areas. So, this affected area should be considered and mining funds should be made available. This mining fund can be spent in the radius of 20 km from the project.

An ambulance was provided for the Primary Health Center (PHC) due to the efforts of the villagers. However, more mining funds are needed for development here. Redi village needs additional mining funds for its health and many other social needs.

We are not against the project. We here wholeheartedly say that company administration did not avoid our request. But while providing the facilities in the village, priority should be given to the facilities suggested by the local people. The pipeline for agriculture near Ganapati temple, issue of drinking water, health facilities of local schools. For this, the District Administration should give instructions to the company.

There is no opposition to the project, but the demand of our Redi villagers is that the project should be implemented by taking into confidence of the local people and following all Environmental Rules.

2) Shri Pritesh Shankar Raul, Former Sabhapati, Sindhudurg Zilla Parishad :-

Welcome to all. Now the Sarpanch of Redi village has presented all the topics, no topic has been left out. Sarpanch has raised our problems. There is opposition to the project elsewhere, but Redi village has not opposed any project. Redi village always supported projects. The burning issue of the local people here is job opportunities. So here the company should co-operate with the local people by giving job opportunities to the local people as much as possible. It should be controlled by the Government.

Similarly, it is mandatory for the project to strictly follow all the terms and conditions prescribed by the Maharashtra Government and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. In any case, the company must take the responsibility of not damaging the environment.



As demanded in the meeting, a clinic of the company is running at Redi village. But according to the demand of the people here, it is necessary for the company to set up a state-of-the-art hospital providing 24 X 7 complete medical facilities. Because here if a person falls ill suddenly, doctors are not immediately available here. This is the tragedy here. The villagers of Redi village have been raising this question for the past few days. The company has co-operated from time to time in developing water purification projects, school materials, coloring of schools, health facilities. It is necessary to continue the co-operation.

The road passes through the mining, there is no problem to leave the road for mining, but all government regulations must be followed by the company.

As shown in the presentation, the annual revenue of 60 crores will be received by the Government. Although the Central Government and Maharashtra government are getting funds, Redi village has not yet benefited from it. It is necessary to solve it. However, it is necessary for the government to spend some share of the mining fund for Redi village. A lot of injustice has been done to Redi village regarding the mining fund.

Previously, after a certain period, meetings used to be held with district officials, Redi village administration, representatives of mining companies and other industries and local people. It should be resumed. Hence, Hon. District Authorities are requested that a joint meeting be held at least every three months. So, the local problems here can be addressed and solved. As Redi village has co-operated with various industries, the company has also co-operated in some cases with the villages. However, we are constantly raising the issue of workers before the company. The local people face the pollution, as they hope to get the job opportunities in the project. As per the demands made by the local people from time to time, the workers and employees of Redi village who retired, the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and local people who are able to work on the vacancies, persons from the revenue villages of the project area should be given job opportunity immediately.

Also, the maximum share of the mineral funds received from Redi village should be made available for developmental activities in Redi village. Company should do the work befitting the name of the company in the future also. There is a lot of scope for tourism industry in Sindhudurg district, for that purpose planning should be done by the company administration. Tourism guidance camps and training

should be extended to the local young boys and girls by the company. Pending issues of Redi village and all other revenue villages should be resolved at the earliest. Many questions have been pending for many years, it is requested to find a solution as soon as possible so that there are no agitations. It is necessary to take immediate further action on the issues raised by the Representatives of People and Gram Panchayat here.

3) Mrs. Namita Sanjay Nagolkar, Dy. Sarpanch, Redi Grampanchayat Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-

Welcome to all. Kanyalwadi and Tiwerewadi are the affected villages near this Mauli block. Sarpanch has raised this issue in the meeting. However, District Administration should pay attention to those affected villages and solve their problems. Also, we want special support to exclude the survey numbers which will not be excavated. Where this mining block is going to be built, there is a locality/Basti and a road passes through it.

Company has to protect the localities by building a retaining wall so that the locality does not suffer from the project. District Administration should Order them to excavate only on the survey numbers that the company planned to excavate.

Also in Redi village, although the project has brought economic progress to the local people, there is no mobile tower for mobile net. Even if the company has an equipped ambulance and if the mobile phone is not working to contact the ambulance, what is the use? If someone gets serious, even if no vehicle is available to go near the company, hence here a mobile tower should be provided by the Project Proponent to benefit whole village from it.

Company should organize a health camp once a year for all the villages in the area. There is a Primary Health Center (PHC) in Redi village. But it has limitations. In the meeting, Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch raised the issue of providing medical facilities. However, a well-equipped hospital 24X7 should be developed in the village.

After the implementation of the project, the movement of vehicles in the project will start. Trucks will come, machinery will come. The roads here are small. Therefore, children, students who go to school on foot are more likely to have an accident. For their safety, the company should provide a school bus for the students of Redi village. So, the children of Redi village will be able to go to school safely.

Company has contributed a lot to Redi village. Company has provided an equipped ambulance to Reddy village. If there is any need, the company is getting support through Sarpanches. However, the demands



raised in the meeting should be fulfilled and the company should co-operate with villagers.

4) Mrs. Chitra Kanyalkar, Ex Sarpanch, Redi Grampanchayat, Taluka-Vengurla, District-Sindhudurg:-

Welcoming the Environmental Public Hearing Committee, People's Representatives and all citizens present in the meeting. Mining business has been going on in Redi village for the last 60-70 years. Therefore, Redi village is known as mining village. Similarly, although Reddy village has progressed due to mining, the local people are suffering from pollution and suffering due to mining.

This company has co-operated here in all fields i.e. education, health, social welfare. But now the survey number on which you are going to do mining is surrounded by the localities/bastis. Company definitely might have thought health, communication, education etc. of those localities, the company should think about it in detail and benefit the people there. Company should take care and benefits should be given to the localities.

The main issue here is employment. As job opportunities are not available here, the youth here have to go to Goa. However, job opportunities should be given to the local young boys and girls. As suggested by the Sarpanch in the meeting, company should develop permanent business activities along with mining and job opportunities should be provided.

Many projects of the company are also operational outside Redi village. We are sure that this company is a good business.

While developing this block, the company has left an area of ten acres. Hence, in the meeting, Prant Officer is humbly requested that there is no record of mining being abandoned on 7/12 of that ten acre area. If it happens, there is a road leading to Kanyalwadi, that road is in bad condition, it is not possible to pass there during monsoon. However, that road should be repaired immediately.

Hon. Prant Officer is requested to visit and inspect the road after the meeting.

Also, the provision is made of Rupees Five lakhs for women empowerment, it is requested that the amount should be increased.

In the meeting, Sarpanch has registered objection regarding royalty. The royalty that goes to the government from the company, a portion of which goes to the district. But Redi village does not get benefit from that royalty. After a lot of efforts, an ambulance was finally obtained from the



royalty through the government. However, 50% of the royalty received by the Government from the Redi village should be given to the Redi village.

It will be used for development activities of the village. However, Hon. Prant Officer is requested to look into this matter. We also believe that the company will develop healthcare facilities as shown in the presentation. The Gram Panchayat will take follow up on this subject.

Also, if the Project Proponent is not able to provide job opportunities to the local people in this project, then the young boys and girls of Redi village should be given priority in job opportunities where the company has projects in other places.

5) Shri Gopal Pandurang Raul, Residence – Redi village, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg:-

I am a local resident and also working in the company. Mining business has been going on in Redi village for many years. In the meantime, the mining business was stopped, at that time there was a lot of unemployment in the village. People had to move out of Redi village. Then in 2003 Fomento Company started business. Project Proponent considered the local area as well as the local business, directly and indirectly employed local workers. All the dumpers required by the company are owned by the local people and Redi villagers. Later, the company has provided drinking water facilities. Later, a fully equipped ambulance was made available to Redi village. It is absolutely free. The benefit of this is getting well in the village. A doctor from the company comes to the village for examination and medicines are provided free of charge. Many people in the village are taking advantage of this.

While considering the environment, dust control system has been installed in the company for the dust generated in the project. From time to time, the company is sprinkling water on the roads. Also, the dumps which are made, have been planted with trees by spending crores of rupees. The government has awarded the company with “ five star rating,”

In terms of security, the company is helping the people in the village. Taking care of it. When it comes to respect, the people of the village are treated with respect, similarly, if a local person, be it young or old, takes up some of his difficulties, he is treated with respect. His problems are solved by listening to his problems. If there is any social, cultural program in the area, the company participates in it. The company has done many development works through Gram Panchayat.

If this new project is started, then the unemployed young boys and girls of the village will get a chance to get jobs, which will add to the

development of the village. Company has carried many developmental activities in the area through Gram Panchayat. However, I request that the said project should be approved, it will add to the development of Redi village and area.

6) Sou. Sayali Santosh Pokharankar, Ex Sarpanch, Redi Gram Panchayat. Taluka – Venngurla, District – Sindhudurg – Social Worker –

Last time there was a similar public hearing on environment related to this project. At that time, some issues were raised in the meeting. We have not been satisfied with that yet. At that time, Hon. Collector Madam had ordered that the company should ensure that the actual area of the operation of mine, the entire area of the mine and the project will not be disturbed the locality of the people.

Company has not provided any information regarding this yet to us. After the public hearing, the points raised at that time have not been rebutted.

If we think about the environment, the air monitoring survey of Redi village should be carried in which how many dust particles are there, how many diseases are caused, what possible diseases can be caused due to dust particles should be mentioned.

We are not against the project. However, the information about how many young men and women of the village were given job opportunities should be explained here. As far as I know, very few local people were given job contracts. Some of them are contractors, others are educated unemployed just roaming around the village.

While registering environmental objections, it is suggested that the TDS of the water here should be checked. Because earlier, the water of Redi village was good and clean. Now it looks green most of the time. Tap water is literally green. Now even though the water purification project has been implemented, many times the water in Redi village looks green. This problem is ours forever.

In the previous public hearing, the company had assured that the closed hospital would be made operational as soon as possible. It is still not started.

It should be explained how the village has benefited by women empowerment, how women empowerment funds have been used. Because to whom the funds were given, the explanation of how much was given should also be given.



The project asserts that where the project is going to be constructed, if there is a population, the population will be relocated as per the government norms. However, the government should look into this, because our entire lives have been spent here, so we cannot afford to migrate. Three generations of us are living.

However, displacement of localities should be avoided as promised by the company in the last meeting, explanation about the project area, affected area, how far distance the locality is from the project, how many educated local people were given job opportunities, how many people were given permanent jobs, how many people were given contract jobs, etc., this information about why the hospital has not been started and when it will be started should be told in the meeting.

Similarly complete information should be made available on which survey number the project will be commissioned and which survey number project will not be commissioned. Also, explanation about how many educated children of Redi village were given employment opportunities.

7) Shri Dayanand Krushanaji, Residence – Nagolewadi, At Post – Redigaon, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-

I have taken follow up for many years regarding the project to be installed. Information about where Mauli Mines is going to build the road is obtained from Talathi office. Those whose land is acquired for the project should be given job opportunities in the project. Also job opportunities should be extended to local people. The funds which goes from the village belongs to the land owners. This is to inform that from Mauli to Redi village, all are zamindars, no one has noticed it yet.

Hon. District Collector was requested to take this land and give us job opportunities in the plant. It has not been taken into account. We requested company also to take our land and give us compensation. Company did not take the land. However, the company should take our land and give us compensation. The funds received from the mine are from the villages here, but Government, Administration and other people have got benefit from it, but we did not get any benefit.

We have sent a letter to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, there is no reply. Later we have sent letter to Hon. Governor, State of Maharashtra, the reply has been received, a copy of which has been submitted. However, it is requested that the funds should be spent for the development of Redi village.

Also, our water problem is not solved. Company Administration says that it spends fifty thousand a day for water. We provide clean water. If clean water is provided, it must be known to the local people. Also, we must know



whether we are given this pure water free of charge or by paying a bill. It means we are misled if charges are taken.

Also, we asked company officials to go door-to-door and check whether contaminated water is coming there, only then we will get information. Another issue is if our land is lost, then give job opportunity to our heirs – son/daughter. In this respect, no further action is taken.

8) Shri Parag Shirodkar, Residence – Redi village, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-

I live in Kanyal village. The main road which goes along the block is connecting the village is totally broken, damaged and no longer drivable. It further goes to the sea shore. We have given several representations to Gram Panchayats, Company to repair it. So, what is in the hands of the Administration should also be looked into, because the next reality is that the people of Kanyal and other villages have to go through mining only.

Hence, I demand that Government should pay attention to it. People there have no choice but to go through mining only.

Many issues have been raised by Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch in the meeting. Company should pay attention to it. Mining is not new to Redi gaon. Mining has been here since before we were born. Mining is directly proportional to environmental deterioration, mining disrupt the environment, hence it is opposite for better environment. However, mining should be done with utmost care for the environment. There is no business here except mining. So we have to bear the pollution caused by mining

Similarly, the villagers should demand and improve the pollution control. But the Redi villagers are suffering due to the pollution of the company, as they hope to get job opportunities in the company. This has been discussed with the company administration from time to time. Company Administration says that only those who are locals will be given job opportunities. But those who are local, whose lands have not been acquired for the project should also be given job opportunities.

Local landlord whose land is lost in the project, but does not need employment, in that case the job opportunities should be given to the person recommended by the landlord. The rest of the issues have been stated by the participants.

I fully support the project.

9) Shri Sagar Namdeo Raut, Residence – Redi gaon, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-

We are looking since establishment of the company. Company has been operating since 2004, the company has been providing educational and

health facilities in Redi village and the project area. When any project starts the operation, there are both positive and negative effects. But this company has helped in many social works.

Just now in the meeting, Sarpanch has kept certain demands from the company for need of the local people. So, the company will explain it.

Dumpers which have been used by the company in which there are dumpers of local people also.

Due to the company, there has been a huge increase in indirect business here and people here have started garages. Company is also in the hotel business, so the company should try to create employment in the hotel business in this area.

**10) Shri Sudesh Kambali, Residence – Redi gaon,
Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-**

It was opined in the meeting that Redi is a mining sector and there is no alternative to Redi without mining. But Sindhudurg district has been declared as a “Tourist Zone” by Maharashtra government. Similarly, Redi village is also a tourist area. However, the company should develop Tourism Business here. This will provide job opportunities to the local youth.

As there is no jobs, the youth here have to go to Goa. This company does land transactions and other activities through brokers. However, the company should directly discuss with the local landlords and they should not involve brokers.

A Review Meeting should be organized by the company every year. Information should be given to the public about where the company will work, how much work has been done and how much investment will be made in the future and where it will be taken.

Also, the company should work to deliver water to every village, because some land has been destroyed due to mining. There are cashew plantations, mango groves, jack fruit plantations.

However, the company should release water to the grassroots/all. Similarly, justice should be given to the landlords in the area where this company has to work. One person from the landlord family should be included in the company.

**11) Shri Rajendra Kambali, Residence-Redigaon,
Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-**

I am going to make some suggestions so that the company does not go out of business and the workers starve and our truck business does not shut down –



- a) This is an Environmental Public Hearing. If environmental norms are followed, then 100% this mining company will not be able to run. Our village has been allowing this mining for the past 60 years. As mining and environment will never be compatible, we don't want to destroy the village, but we want mining. However, the company should take far-reaching/long term measures for that. Sustainable plans were shown in the presentation. But what is the Sustainable Plan, the sustainable plan is the planning of how the development of this village will be and will be for the next 50 years by maintaining environmental balance due to this mining or other industries and how it will benefit the common people and whole society;
- b) We trust this company, so this is the company we wish. Similarly, the village cannot afford the company leaving from this village, as economic development occurs only because of companies. But here this environmental public hearing is going on, there is mining at all sides. So where should the residents go? On the way to Kanyal village one has to pass through the mining pits. This company has technical manpower. The financial condition of the company is good.

However, this company should start Sponge Iron Projects, Pig Iron companies. The production cost will be 50% of the production cost of mining. The project management has Redi village land, Redi village water. So, if project management starts sponge iron project, steel iron project, it can run forever, mining industry has limitations. After a few years, the mining industry has to be shut down. Sponge Iron Project, Steel Iron Project, local people here can get permanent job opportunities in the project.

- c) Due to this mining project, 30% of the area of Redi village has pits. However, it is necessary to do back filling in Redi village. In case of back filling, hundreds of acres of land will be available for development, back in Redi village. The development of Redi village should also be given to this company. It is requested that this Project Proponent - Mauli Iron Ore Block should be given back filling work in the village. Because this company is trusted. However, it is requested that company administration should take special interest in starting sponge iron project, steel iron project. This will provide employment opportunity to local people. Most of the young boys and girls here are educated, trained in all cadres. The mining project has to be shut down after a few days. Redi village is called the financial



capital of Sindhudurg district. Though this Redi village gave revenue of several crores of rupees to the government, the young boys and girls of Redi village have to go to Goa for jobs.

d) But due to this mining, the entire Redi village has been destroyed. People are now saying that if you want to see the deterioration of the environment, look at Reddy village. However, this identity has to be erased and for that Mauli Iron Company should do the work.

e) I have given written suggestions/objections. The management of the company has to face the problems in Redi village. The entire Redi village has been destroyed by the mine. So, how many mining companies who came here and took advantage of them, abandoned their work and destroyed the environment, and how many companies have been served notice and legal action is initiated against them? The answer is None.

Hence, call the relevant companies and do the work of extinguishing mining from them. If the mining pits in Redi village are ordered to be closed, ten years of work will get to truck owners, hundreds of acres of land in Redi village will be available for development. Collector Office can provide the required funds for this. However, this is a request from all the villagers.

f) Mining causes so much dust pollution that one cannot see the front side. Village children and old people immediately get sick. Therefore, the company should immediately implement the dust control system in the project. Revatinagar is our native village while carrying mining activities. The Ganpati temple of Revati Nagar is famous in the country, but no one is ready to improve the road there.

Next Point -

If back filling all the land that has been pitted due to the mine is carried, hundreds of acres of land will be available, then the company should develop tourism here. We are going to form a Revatinagar Rescue Committee, because if we save the environment here, we will live. However, tourism should be started by back filling as soon as possible.

The whole world/people will know how Redi village has stopped mining and developed environmental protection and tourism, thus providing a new employment sector for the local youth. The example of Redi village



for environmental conservation will be followed by others. Also, there will be a large increase in indirect business in Redi village area.

Hence, please follow my suggestions.

12) Shri Dattatraya Kamat, Residence – Mahadevwadi, Redi village, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-

I want clarifications on 2-3 points from the company and government –

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ): -

500 meters width gap of the company is excluded. The land left out, which was previously owned by New India Mines, was leased for 34 hectares. Because the said project is in 24.26 hectares. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report does not mention the present condition of the remaining ten hectares of land, whether it has pits or whether the land is cultivated. However, what is the plan of the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra regarding the remaining space? Is the boundary marked from CRZ? An explanation should be given by the company and the government in this regard.

Secondly, the depth of mining is stated in the EIA report as 30 meters below sea level. If the sea is 500 meters away, then the sea water is at a height of 30 meters. It means the water coming into the mine will seep into the villages. Information and explanation of the proposed measures taken by the company to prevent water sources from becoming saline if the water level decreases.

The proposed mining project is spread over 24.26 hectares. So how deep are you going to carry digging activities in the mine? How will it affect the surrounding villages? Because 30 meters deep mining business will be going on in the locality where people are staying. It is not mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. Therefore, the villagers think that the company is going to mine underground, so after the sea water gets mixed with the village water source, it will affect the wells and drinking water will be affected.

Mining activities have been carried on the mountain and hills. Hence, the support of the mountain and hills to the village has been destroyed. There is a settlement around the project and mining business is going on in the localities where people are staying. This business has been going on for the last 60 years, which is informed by all in the meeting. Hence, there is a danger to the surrounding localities. Explanation about this should be by Government regarding how far mining is allowed.

Similarly, there are closed mines in the area. S.No. 138 – Hudawadi and S.N. 234 – Bombodojichiwadi and Nagolewadi are related – these

mines have been closed for 40 years and the other for 12-13 years. One of these mines now falls under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). So, is mine reclamation allowed in CRZ area? In this regard MPCB and government should explain.

Previous Mine Owners have dumped Rejects in the Arabian Sea. Therefore, 300 hectares of land has been created almost on the border of Kanyal and Tiwarewadi. District Collector of that time issued Orders and stopped the dumping. After that, Government acquired the land and carried afforestation. It is declared as Forest Zone.

The land was created in the sea, so the map of CRZ was changed. Therefore, 300 hectares of land was created between Tiwarewadi and Sea. Thus, a 300 meter wide patch/section was formed between Tiwarewadi and the sea and the tide line receded. So, 300 meters of sea has receded. The line of CRZ went back.

Hence, my demand is that this 300 meters tidal line is receded, so re-survey should be carried at this place and then declare the line of CRZ and then take further action. It is requested that the company and the government to give an explanation in this regard.

13) **Shri Dattaguru Bhagat, Residence – Redi**
Kanyal Village, Taluka – Vengurla,
District – Sindhudurg :-

Redi village has a population of around 7,500. There is no other industry here except mining. Another industry that operates is Redi Port, which is also dependent on mining. My request to the Government is that it is very necessary to start mining activities in Redi village. I have studied a lot about mining in twenty years. Company has co-operated in education, health, horticulture in Redi village.

Company has also worked in field of environment and helped religious places. Company has set up a water purification project. The annual income of Gram Panchayat will be around 25 lakhs. Redi village needs eleven thousand liters of water every day. So, to supply water to the village by pumping, it costs 60 lakh rupees. It is because of the company that the scheme has been successfully implemented and water has reached everyone's house. Now there is an indirect business of about eighteen crore rupees in the village. This is an important issue for economic empowerment. New Mauli Mines will be operated with only 4% by giving 96% of the revenue to the government. However, my request to the company is that even in that 4%, I request them to take up the development works in the villages according to the needs of the local people and give employment contracts to as many locals as possible in the project, so Redi village can become prosperous.



This company has been running well for the past twenty years. Many people have benefited from this company. There are more than 350 tippers in the village. When the company started in 2003, the number of local tippers was 146. Now in 2023 the number of tippers has reached almost 350. Many people have also purchased wheel loaders. This means that a large number of local people have got employment and business here.

The most important thing is that the ambulance service is provided by the company for the village. There were two patients in the village, their financial condition was bad. They had to undergo dialysis. Those patients have received the ambulance service of the company for five years. Both those patients used to go to Bamboli, Sawantwadi, Kudal once or twice a week. So that patient could stay well for almost five years. This is the important thing here.

Now, I request Company Management that in the meeting Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch and local citizens have suggested many things to the company. However, a positive decision should be taken about it and planning should be done on how this project will benefit Redi village to the maximum extent.

14) Shri Santosh Vyankatesh Naik, Residence – Redi Village, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-

I am expressing my opinion as a citizen of Redi village. Whether or not the points we have raised will be answered here, so that further suggestions will be made. If there are any collective answers, are we going to answered? I am not against the company. This company and mining are so synergistic that I am the third generation representative for this mining. But for the benefit of next generation, I want to say something.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee replied that Project Proponent will give a joint reply on the issues raised at the end.

I am not against mining, mining is doing well. Local people also need business. Food, clothing and shelter are needed to survive. Those displaced are given job opportunities. But there are also local youth who do not have land. Company should provide job opportunities for them, at least 10% employment should be reserved.

I am a teacher in school. The company has been supplying uniforms to schools for the last 3-4 years. And the children wear uniforms as they give. Teachers have not been recruited for the last 2-3 years, but now volunteers are going to be recruited in the school, hence the aid/help should be given. Uniforms, notebooks are given by the parents to the children. That should be noted. The amount from CSR fund should be used for this purpose.



Shelter is essential for survival. Everyone do not get benefits from government schemes. Many people in the society, though not below the poverty line, do not have shelter. Some have no home or live in huts. However, the company should build a residential colony for them through CSR funds. Also, health camps are organized from time to time. Not everyone benefits from it. Also, regarding health, the company should give the medi-claim policy of the government or private company to the local people without any actual expenditure.

An effort should be made to bring a branch office of the respective mediclaim company to Redi village. As there are many schemes of the government and they are not properly utilized by the villagers. Company also helps for health issues, but it is very negligible.

Now about water – the company has built a filtration plant. But the area near my house gets water with 250-450 TDS. This is because the water pipeline is bad, the purified water becomes impure, Hence, the drinking water pipeline should be replaced immediately. I have installed Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant at home , but do not get TDS below 250.

Also, the company, village panchayat and public representatives should co-ordinate with each other to reach the drinking water to the end consumer in prescribed standards. Because even after spending crores of rupees, the water does not reach us. There is irregularity in the water distributed by the company, in some places water is not available to all, in some places the gardens are dry. Much of the water eventually goes to the creek and then to the ocean, it should be diverted and supplied where it is needed.

Company spends on social work. Hence, along with education, health, old age homes should be developed for the destitute people of Redi village. A common scheme like old age home should be prepared. If the company will do so, I am ready to give my land for free of cost.

In the project, some contractors are given repeated tasks. However, no one should be monopolized, local contractor should also be given contract.

Company has many other companies (sister companies). This Fomento Company will have 30-40 sister companies. It is not possible to employ all of them in the Redi Project, but the qualified candidates here should also be given job opportunities in sister companies in other places. Local persons with skills should be given jobs. Also, skill development training for local young boys and girls should be organized from time to time. Local people should be trained to enable them to work in the project.

In case of death of a worker, employee working in the company, his/her heir should be inducted into the service of the company on compassionate grounds. Also, Group Insurance Plan should be implemented for village people like workers/employees of the company.



If even an inch of land is given for a government scheme, it is considered as PAPs i.e. Project Affected Person. They can get employment mostly from project affected cadre in government service. However, if our land is taken, the locals should be guided as how we will be treated as PAPs. We don't want to oppose the company activities.

This Company is implementing various social schemes. Various companies do appoint Public Relations Officer (PRO) to keep co-ordination amongst local people with the project management. This company should also appoint one Village Public Relations Officer (VPRO for the same.

An Annual Report of CSR funds which have been spent on the schemes should be made available to the local people.

Company should take land/plot on rent

Company should consider the future and keep provision of funds to implement the refilling plan while closing the mining operations. Congratulations to the company for 96% provision.

The day the company closes down, we will have to move out of this village. However, the company and the Government should prepare Rehabilitation Plan from today itself.

It is a modest expectation that the company should supply free water to Redi villagers. Even if there is no company in the future, planning should be done in terms of water availability for future generations.

Company should make provision for rehabilitation after closure of the mine and make available funds for it.

Company should set up a "Model Education Complex" in the village, which should be set up within the Zilla Parishad land. It will be useful for all the people in the village.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed the participants to raise their suggestions, objections in environmental angle only and in brief.

15) Shri Nilesh Balkrishna Redkar, Residence – Redigaon, Taluka – Vengurla, District – Sindhudurg :-

It was said here that mining must continue, there is no alternative. That is 100% true. So mining must continue.

Also, agriculture, orchards, fishing in Redi area have been destroyed in sixty years. Here some dignitaries opined that the village will have to be relocated after the end of mining.

Educated youth from Redi village and surrounding areas go to Goa for jobs or do truck business here. Because there is no option without mining. But here the issue arises that can the boy pay instalment of loan? Still no option for mining. During the last environmental public hearing, the project management had promised to provide business, jobs to the locals.



A well-equipped hospital will be built here. But the company started a clinic. It has also been closed now and there are air-conditioned cabins for the officers.

Some people have thought of leaving the village and being displaced. Because Redi village has no option but mining. It was demanded in the meeting that there are limits for mining activities. But there is no limit to human demand. Mining has been going on here for sixty years, how many more years will mining go on?

Stop the hanging sword of displacement. And along with mining, plan how sustainable development will be done here. Redi village had abundant water, natural resources, which are now closed due to mining activities. Air was clean. People are suffering from dust pollution.

Government declared Sindhudurg district as "Tourism District", but Redi village is ruined due to mining, how can the government could not think this, despite repeated demands for survey, it is not initiated. At this time, the local wells were getting salt water. Yet local people say there is no option, but mining.

It is also the duty of the government to periodically check the compliance of companies.

Police cases have been filed against local people who complained about dust pollution. 300-350 persons were picked up from their houses at 2.00-2.30 a.m. and taken into police custody. No local leaders or villagers have come to give them bail. What crime did they commit, they complained about the dust in the project.

At that time, trucks used to come round the clock. Today it comes twelve hours, still today the problem of dust has not solved. Hence, measures should be taken to control dust and prevent water pollution.

For the past few days, leaflets have been distributed from village to village writing in favor of the company and signatures are being taken by the locals by coercion and baiting. Company had promised that drinking water would be provided free of cost. But today every house is buying that water. If the government earns crores of rupees in revenue, it is our tragedy that round the clock medical services are not made available here.

However, these destructive projects should be stopped. Just as Malin village in Raigad district disappeared in a day, same will happen here. One day in the future the sea will enter the village. If the sea is pushed away by dumping soil in the sea, the sea water has gone to Vengurla, Deobagh. Many gardens in Deobagh have been damaged. So, MPCB should survey the area to see how much dust is blown into the village. How deep the sea has penetrated into Devbagh,

If this company is good, then in the meeting the company should consider the option of starting another business.



16) Shri Bhushan Manjarekar, Residence – 685/A, Annapura Niwas, Redi, Mhartalewadi, Vengurla – 416 510, District – Sindhudurg -

First of all, I want to ask whether the Pradhan Mantri Minerals Kshetra Kalyan Yojana is applicable in Reddy village?

At that time, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed concerned person to raise the questions.

Shri Manjrekar read out the water samples and standards from various places (prescribed standards) and the results of analysis. He said that all the parameters are above the prescribed standards.

Shri Manjrekar said that by destroying so much biodiversity in the area, only 19 persons and 103 contract persons from local areas will get the job opportunities. Is this correct? We are totally against this mining.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report prepared by the Environmental Consultant of the company is completely false and misleading. Also the map shown in the EIA report, the CRZ area, the land area is completely wrong. CRZ area is visible at 360 m. The company releases mineralized water in the fields of local farmers, the company is misleading the local people. Salt water flows into the farm of a farmer brothers in Redi.

I have no idea about this project, I am not asking job in this project. Company administration is benefiting themselves by taking people who are ready to give up everything for their selfish moto. There is opposition to the project. I have submitted a written objection and a written reply on those points should be given by the project promoters.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed Shri Bhushan Manjrekar to register his objection in writing. Member instructed Project Proponent to clarify/reply on each point raised by the participants

Project Proponent has given explanation on each points as under :-

- 1) **Sarpanch suggested** to provide medical facilities. The answer is now medical facilities are available. Medical Officer is available for three days in a week and now it is informed to him to provide service of Medical Officer for six days. This is inform that the medical facility was available, but was not being used. Also, if someone asks for help over the phone, the medical officers provide medical help immediately. Medical Officer will be at medical facility center whole week whole day. But at present it is not possible to make available Medical Officer for 24 hours.
- 2) **Project Proponent** has installed water filtration plant and it is in operation efficiently. Participants here raised objection that company is taking money for providing drinking water facilities. This is to

inform that company do not take any money for providing drinking facilities. Local Gram Panchayat is Revenue Authority Company after filtration make available water free of cost to Gram Panchayat. Gram Panchayat do charge while giving water supply to villagers. Practice of providing water free of cost to local grampanchayat will continue in future also. Company does not get money. Secondly, it is promised that availability of water for any agriculture activities.

- 3) Sarpanch demanded that green belt should be developed on place of mines after reclamation/refilling. Answer for this is - company's mining plan is approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines. Reclamation has to be carried five years before the mine is closed. The government does not allow recharge while the mineral is in the mine. The final mining plan will be implemented as per the rules. All the committee of Indian Bureau of Mines do visit and inspects, only after that the mine is closed. The lease exists until they pay the certificate;
- 4) In the meeting, the local people demanded that instead of mines, the company should start sponge iron projects, steel iron companies. So local people know that two steel iron companies were started here. The question is always asked what after mining,? We have been in existence for the last twenty years and the mines will not be closed in the next twenty years. But we are studying the tourism sector so that the employability of the local people is not affected after the closure of the mine and definitely a positive policy can be taken by the company. But here it is assured that employment of local people will definitely continue.
- 5) **Shri Pritish Raul asked** about the job opportunities. . Every mine is different. The project will provide direct and indirect employment to 122 persons. Now the issue of environmental issues was raised. Whereas, Project Proponent have appointed NABET Approved and Mineral Engineering Services, Bellary, Karnataka, approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi as Environmental Consultants. It has prepared an Environment Impact Assessment report as per the directives of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. Environmental Clearance (EC) is granted only after its thorough inspection. Similarly, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board also collects effluent samples from time to time and checks its findings.
- 6) **Shri Pritish Raul further** demanded that the development of the village should be followed by following all the rules of the government. For the past twenty years, the local people here have

been seeing that we are developing by strictly following the rules of the Government.

- 7) The royalty received from the government should be utilized to the maximum extent for the development of the village. This matter is not under the control of the company. The District Mining Fund is mutually deposited in the government treasury. Government will take appropriate action in this regard as per rule .
- 8) **Mrs. Namita Sanjay Nagolkar madam – She Dy. Sarpanch.** She has given instructions about solving the problems of Tiwarewadi and taking care of the settlements around the mine. It will definitely be taken into consideration.
- 9) **Mobile Tower – Nagolkar Madam, Dy. Sarpanch** As demanded by Dy. Sarpanch that Company Administration is discussing 1-2 companies and company is trying to take positive approach. Hence, the mobile range will get everybody;

Nagolkar Madam, Dy. Sarpanch suggested to observe safety in the project. The answer is – Project Proponent has appointed National Institute Of Technology, Suratkal, Karnataka and the Institute is assigned to advise on project safety. Officials of Institute will come here and do survey and study. Security measures will be adopted as per their report and as suggested by them. Security will not be compromised under any circumstances. But the public should note that in the last twenty years, no safety incident has occurred in our mines. National Institute Of Technology, Suratkal, Karnataka State is the organization that has the most comprehensive training and consultancy in mining in India.

- 10) **Mrs. Chitra Kanyalkar, Former Sarpanch suggested that** Health, communication, employment should be made available. So the answer to that will be to give maximum employment contract to the local people. Similarly, we are going to give the direct and indirect benefit of the project to the people of the village.
- 11) **Mrs. Chitra Kanyalkar, Former Sarpanch asked that** What about the ten hectares of land that is not in our new mining? Those whose names are on 7/12 will remain. We do not have the right to make changes.



- 12) **Mrs. Chitra Kanyalkar, Former Sarpanch** remarked that fund of Rupees 5/- lakh which is ear-marked for women empowerment is less and hence it should be increased. The suggestions accepted by the Project Proponent and amount of the fund will be increased by the Project Proponent.
- 13) **Shri Gopal Pandhurang Raul** informed that the project is implementing social welfare schemes nicely and wished that it should be done in future also. Project Proponent assured that we will carry good work as done in the past.
- 14) **Mrs. Sayali Santosh Pokhrankar, Former Sarpanch** asked questions about the water. Similarly, the issue of damaged pipeline was also raised in the meeting. In 2021, the company had disposed of 250 meters of pipeline to the Gram Panchayat at its own expense. Also in 2023, five km. pipeline is newly laid. Our officers and employees also drink its water. So where there is water leakage, or there is any problem in water flow, it is pointed out and we take further action. So now fully five k.m. pipeline has been replaced
- 15) **Shri Dayanand Krishnaji** asked the question about job opportunities in the project. But the population is large, not everyone will get employment, even the government is not able to do it. However, the company administration is trying to provide employment to the local people as much as possible.
- 16) **Shri Parag Shirodkar** asked about the issues were raised regarding the main road connecting the village- the road connecting Mahuli Kanyal villages and employment to the locals. If there are any problems regarding the road, the local committee/association of the company should be contacted. The company is doing good work and the company is trying to do better work.
- 17) **Shri Sagar Raul** suggested to convene a Review Meeting . This is inform that Review meetings are held from time to time. Local people come here, raise their queries to the concerned authorities. It can be solved.
- 18) Shri Rajendra Kambli suggested that long term steps should be taken by the Project Proponent and suggested to start Sponge Iron Project, Steel Iron Companies. So it requires coal, blast furnace. A steel company can pollute more than a mining company because their carbon footprint is larger. Anyway, welcome to your suggestion. Company administration



will study it from all sides. He gave instructions about back filling. A detailed answer has been given in this regard. Back filling will be done as per the instructions of Indian Bureau of Mines.

- 19) **Shri Dattatraya Kamat asked the question regarding CRZ distane of 500 meters.** There are five organizations of Government of India, only they are allowed to conduct survey, study on CRZ. The 500 meter line has been fixed according to the report given by the survey Institute of Remote Sensing (IRS), Anna University, Chennai. Therefore, the Maharashtra government has removed 10 hectares and auctioned 24 hectares. Those who own the rest of the land will get it back.
- 20) **Shri Dattaguru Bhagat asked about the creation of job opportunities The answer is given.** The relationship should be maintained as it has developed between the two.
- 21) **Shri Santosh Vyankatesh Naik talked about food, cloth and shelter.** He is of the view that the project should be implemented. The village always co-operates with the company. But the relationship is desired by both. Both have to be related. There are some academic issues that need to be addressed. Providing uniforms to schools, providing financial assistance to poor children for their education. Everyone is catered for in terms of education. This action will continue in the future as well.
- 22) **Shri Nilesh Redkar said** that mining is important. Also truck business is important. He demanded provision of 24X7 well-equipped hospital services. Company will now operate the hospital 7 days a day and in case of emergency you can call the hospital anytime, you will get medical help. Similarly, ambulance is available round the clock. General medicine is available free of cost by the company. Also basic checkup free.
- 23) **Shri Bhushan Manjarekar raised the objections – While giving answers to all the objections it is informed that** We are following all environmental guidelines and we are testing our samples only from laboratories approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.

Project Proponent said that all questions have been answered.

At that time, one of the participants said that my house is in front of the Gram Panchayat. At three o'clock in the morning, the tiger dragged the



calf away. All this is due to the pits of the mines four days ago. Wild animals destroy all horticultural crops.

Another participant objected to cutting down trees for the project. We are not against mining. But we should also consider the trouble we are going through.

At that time, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that it is important to think about bio-diversity, forest resources and forest life. Views, opinions and objections raised by participants and local people are not wrong. They need to be informed. One of the participants objected that no one had given information about the disturbance of wild animals caused by the project and the measures to be taken to deal with it. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that the matter be recorded in the minutes.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to answer the questions raised by the participants in written form.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions, views raised by Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee are important about bio-diversity, forest resources and forest life should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Concrete answers y should be given in writing by the company officials.

At that time, Project Proponent informed that the local people had raised objections regarding bio-diversity here. So it is explained that while studying for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, 10.0 km radius of the project study is carried in which species of trees, species of animals in the area is studied and its copy is made available to various notified government departments.

Now the participants informed about wild bore. Wild Life Conservation Plan is a part of it. The Wild Life Conservation Plan with budgetary provisions are given. Its page no. is 168. Similarly, we have to take the permission of Chief Wild Life Conservation of Forest before getting environmental clearance.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee told Mr. Bhushan Manjrekar to state all your points once. Accordingly, the questions asked by Shri Bhushan Manjrekar considering the next 50 years should be answered in written form. Also a copy of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report should be made available to Shri Bhushan Manjrekar. The EIA report should be explained in the review meeting and it should be explained to Shri Bhushan Manjrekar. All the issues raised by him should be resolved.



Shri Bhushan Manjrekar demanded that Mineral Engineering Services, Ballari, Karnataka should be investigated first as they had given a bogus, misleading report.

Project Proponent replied that this report can be done by NABET Accredited Consultant, no one else is allowed to do it. Mineral Engineering Services, Ballari, Karnataka has also prepared EIA report for our other branches. The said company is recognized by the Government of India. Therefore, their report is accepted Project Proponent appealed to the participants that even after this environmental public hearing, you can register your suggestions, objections, which will be answered in writing.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that concerned persons have studied the EIA and have asked questions. Shri Bhushan Manjrekar has raised objections regarding the many errors he felt in the EIA report. However, all the points raised by them should be answered in writing within two days.

Some participants demanded to get all the demands in written form. Chairman and members said that they have to give it to the company.

At that time Mrs. Saili Pokhrankar said that as the order was given now, the same order was given by Hon. Collector madam in the last public hearing that the villagers should be shown which area is mine and which area is residential. No action has been taken by the company till date. So now will the company follow this order given by you?

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that Chairman of Environment Public Hearing Committee is Hon. Collector, Sindhudurg and with his permission says that the former Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, as well as women empowerment and all other issues, the most important issue is reclamation, green belt development, road repair and road development, air pollution - PM 10, PM 2.5. hospital, local tree species, local animal species, wild boars, destruction of fields due to wild animals etc. issues and many issues raised by present Sarpanch. Why do we need a hospital, instead let us make our progress, is it necessary to implement whether the roads are sprinkled to control the dust in the project?

The local people expect us to properly implement the directives passed by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Government of India. You should also build a hospital. But before that, whether you have done all the studies in the EIA report on whether water is sprinkled on the road while the tanker is passing, how much dust is blown, then it is necessary to implement it.

Local people are demanding that you implement Environmental Laws. You know the situation and implement the environmental protection laws according to the demands of the local people.



While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee thanked all the participants and said that the number of local people asked questions in the meeting was high, the number of people seeking clarification on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was high. The suggestions and objections raised are to the point. Present Sarpanch, Dy. Ex-Sarpanch, Dy. Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Members, local citizens participated in the discussion and asked various questions.

This public hearing meeting is going on for almost three hours. Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee has pointed out to the Project Proponent about the improvement in the EIA report, the bio-diversity of the area. Appropriate further action should be taken in this regard.

The said EIA report was made available in the notified office of Government. However, the participants are requested to submit any environmental suggestions, objections regarding their proposed project within two days. There is certainly require improvement in some areas. Redigaon and Mines have been associated for almost sixty years. This company has been working efficiently for the past twenty years. Company should run its mine with the motto Konkan means environment.

Some participants in the meeting suggested that further action can be taken by taking legal advice regarding the company's pollution, but we do not want to do that. Company should implement environmental laws properly. Locals want employment, development. But employment and environment should be a supplementary matter

In the presentation, Project Proponent said that he intends to shift the said business to the tourism sector along with the mining industry. Sindhudurg has been declared as a "Tourism District" by Maharashtra government for the last 25 years. Sindhudurg district is rich because of its environment. The company should work keeping that in mind.

The suggestions mentioned by the participants are mainly reclamation/filling of pits, providing employment to the local people and providing drinking water. Suggestions have been raised regarding the District Mineral Fund (DMF). Efforts will definitely be made at the district level to get funds for Redi village. Company has laid down drinking water pipeline of five km. He has also assured that there will be no compromise on safety in the project. However, you should follow the EIA report.

Bio-diversity is preserved in Konkan, especially in Plateau Konkan. It is the responsibility of the company not to damage it. Mining and Reddy village have been connected for sixty years, so the company should take care that this connection is not broken by taking care of the environment. The company should follow the instructions given by the Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee. The suggestions and objections




made by the attendees should be resolved. He instructed the organizer, Public Hearing Committee on Environment, to conclude the meeting.

Convener thanked everyone and with the permission of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, the public hearing was declared concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.
Enclosed herewith 80 suggestions/objections as received.


(Rahul D. Mote)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Ratnagiri


(Jagannath S. Salunkhe)

Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Kolhapur



(Machhindra Sukate)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Sindhudurg,
District – Sindhudurg