

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPOSED TARALI RIVER PUMPED
STORAGE HYDRO PROJECT (TARALI PSHP) OF CAPACITY 1500
MW (4 x 300 MW + 2 x 150 MW) PROPOSED AT VILLAGE –
DANGISTEWADI, TALUKA - PATAN, , DISTRICT – SATARA,
MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S
ADANI GREEN ENERGY LIMITED (AGEL), ADANI CORPORATE
HOUSE, NEAR VAISHNODEVI CIRCLE, SG HIGHWAY,
AHMEDABAD – 382 421, GUJARAT STATE**

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of establishment of proposed Tarali River Pumped Storage Hydro Project (Tarali PSHP) of capacity 1500 MW (4 x 300 MW + 2 x 150 MW) proposed at Village-Dangistewadi, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara, Maharashtra proposed by Project Proponent M/s Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), Adani Corporate House, Near Vaishnodevi Circle, SG Highway, Ahmedabad – 382 421, Gujarat State was conducted on Tuesday, the 12th March, 2024 at 11.00 AM at Gat No.265, 376, 389, Gagangiri Maharaj Math, At Post – Kalambe, Taluka – Patan, District- Satara.

Shri. Amol Satpute, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Hon'ble Shri. Nagesh Patil, Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee and Resident Deputy Collector & Upper District Magistrate, Satara, Shri. Prashant Gaikwad, Representative for Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune (Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee and Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune, 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, 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, Mumbai was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), Adani Corporate House, Near Vaishnodevi Circle, SG Highway, Ahmedabad – 382 421, Gujarat State to arrange Environment Public Hearing for their proposed establishment of Tarali River Pumped Storage Hydro Project (Tarali PSHP) of capacity 1500 MW (4 x 300.0 MW + 2 x 150 MW) proposed at Village-Dangistewadi, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category 1(c) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, and 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.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application along with pre-feasibility report to the, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered and given online approval on 09 November 2022.

After approval from Hon'ble District Collector, Satara to conduct the Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 12th March, 2024 at 11.00 AM, 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 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 121 of under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 240216- FTS- 0246 dated 16-02-2024, and accordingly following Committee member were present.

- 1) Shri. Nagesh Patil, - **Chairman**
Upper District Magistrate
Satara. (Hon'ble Resident Deputy Collector Satara.)
- 2) Mr. Prashant Gaikwad, - **Member**
Sub Regional Officer,
Representative of Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune.
- 3) Mr. Amol Satpute, - **Convener**
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara

As per the said notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Satara in the Local Newspaper in Pudhari (Marathi language) and in National Newspaper Indian Express (English language) on 07th February, 2024. 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. District Collector, Satara.
2. District Industries Centre, Satara.
3. C.E.O. Zilla Parishad Office, Satara.
4. The Regional Director, (Pune) Central Pollution Control Board, Survey No. 110, Dhankude Multi-Purpose Halla, Baner Road, Baner, Pune-411 045.

5. Deputy Secretary, Environment Department, Govt. Of Maharashtra, New Adm. Bldg., 15th Floor, Madam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai.400 032.
6. Member Secretary, M.P.C.Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai – 32.
7. Zonal Office, West Central Zone, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Secretarial Building, Ground Floor East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur
8. The Regional Office, MPC Board, Pune.
- 9 Sub Regional Office, MPC Board, Satara
9. The Tahsildar, Tehsil Office, Patan
10. Sub Division Officer, Sub Division Man- Patan District Satara.
12. The Gramsevak, Grampanchayat Office, Dangistewadi, Kalambe Tal-Patan, District Satara.

Convener informed that till the date of today's public hearing written suggestion/objection has been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Satara regarding the proposed project.

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

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, and objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. 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 Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Central Government New Delhi for further actions. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee welcomed everyone and said that the purpose of the public hearing has been stated by the

Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee at the beginning of the meeting. The main purpose of this public hearing is to register your suggestions, thoughts, criticisms, objections and convey the same to the Government by incorporating it in minutes of the Public Hearing. Here, the presentation of the proposed project will be done first. It is requested all the participants to listen it peacefully, after which everyone will be given the opportunity to raise their questions, thoughts, objections, suggestion, if any

At this time, Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Persons Sanghatana, Shrimik Mukti Dal asked Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee that how long will be the presentation ? It should be limited. He suggested Chairman of the Committee that the basically EIA report submitted by the company is bogus. All information of Andhra Pradesh is just copy-pasted here. This report is based on an incorrect basis, based on information from Andhra Pradesh. However, presentation of the proposed project on this bogus EIA report is also wrong and it will mislead the local people. False information can be shown on almost every page. Information is reported on Pedicular Dam of Andhra Pradesh. Also, biodiversity study is not carried here at all.

Chairman and Member of Environmental Public Hearing Committee requested all the participants to let complete the presentation first.

At the same time, Shri Shivaji Raut, an Environmentalist, independent journalist objected that if the affidavit is bogus, how can Government hold an Environment Public Hearing on the bogus affidavit?

Shri Rohan Bhate, Honorary Warden, Satara District objected and said that this report is copy paste. If we read 11.8 number/point, here description of

Kerala is given. Participants demanded that the said public hearing should be conducted properly. It is not appropriate to hold a public hearing on a false report. Here, local people have not yet considered the technical points. How fair is it to mislead the public on an inherently false report?

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that your issue is acceptable. It has been noted. Chairman and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested to participants to give an opportunity to give presentation first and then everyone will be given opportunity to raise suggestions or objections.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Project Proponent to give presentation regarding the proposed project.

Environmental Consultant started the presentation. Environmental Consultant while explaining the details of the project informed that surge/storage projects are a special type of hydro power project, they usually act as both power generation and storage projects. It consists of a lower and an upper reservoir. Solar and wind energy is used to transport water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir, and electricity is generated while bringing water from the upper reservoir.

Some participants here complained that they could not hear the presentation due to loud noise of generator. Some complained that the screen is not visible clearly.

After that, Project Consultant further informed that Tarali is developing the storage project, and this project includes two reservoirs. Tarali Reservoir is already existing and Upper Reservoir will be constructed. A project of 1500 MW capacity is being developed here. The proposed scheme involves the construction

of a 61.5-meter-high dam to build a reservoir with a storage capacity of 11.36 million cubic meters. This is an open shaft project. Project construction duration will be approximately 36 months.

At that time, group of participants suggested Project Consultant to look at the screen and read as they could not see clearly on the screen. Participants objected that the presentation was merely a formality. He suggested that this objection be recorded in the minutes.

Convener Environment Public Hearing Committee here said that since this is LED screen, it will be visible at the back. At that time, all those present said that they could not see clearly on the screen. Participants demanded to record this in the minutes of the meeting.

Advocate Siddesh Pawar objected that it was not proved that what the environmental consultant was reading was on the screen, but he should get down from the dice and read in front of the screen and suggested that this demand be recorded in the minutes. Participants demanded that we need to record this while filing a complaint in the Court of Law. At that time, Participants objected that what is being read orally is different and what is shown on the screen is different.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that all these incidents will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Further Chairman said that after the completion of presentation, we will give you as much time as you want, everyone's doubts will be cleared. However, the presentation should be completed first.

At that time, Advocate Siddesh Pawar, objected that our objection is that what is being shown on the screen is not visible to the audience. A diagram appears on the screen, while the person who is presenting is speaking different.

Chairman said that after the presentation all the diagrams and their copies will be made available to the local people for study.

Advocate Siddesh Pawar demanded that the project information is not clearly visible on the screen, therefore the information of the project is not understood, and it should be recorded in the minutes of meeting.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the objections raised are being recorded in the minutes of meeting. He suggested that Environmental Consultant should start the presentation.

Environmental Consultant informed that the proposed Tarali PSP is an off-stream open loop project. The current storage capacity of the lower reservoir is 165.4 million cubic meters. It is built by Irrigation Department. The upper reservoir will be newly constructed and its total storage capacity will be 11.36 million cubic meters.

Participants here objected that the first/lower reservoir was built for agriculture purposes only. The water is from Tarali Dam only.

Environmental Consultant further informed the salient features of the project that the project consists of pressure shaft, tail race tunnel, surge shaft to heat race tunnel, pump turbine. In the project, not forest land but non-forest land is 150.745 hectares.

When Environmental Consultant was giving the presentation, participants objected that they did not understand what Project Consultant is reading the presentation.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that all suggestions, objections will be heard after the completion of the presentation. All

will be given an opportunity to raise their suggestions, views, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only.

Here, group of participants stood up and demanded that each point be answered first, and then next point shall be taken up.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the outline of the meeting has been told for the first time in the meeting. So the respective point can be taken and question can be after the presentation. At that time, all participants collectively objected that it was a 40-page presentation. So, the first point will not be remembered till the end. However, questions and answers should be taken immediately after each point is presented in the Presentation. Chairman said that the outline was given at the beginning of the meeting. So, it cannot be changed.

Here, Advocate Siddesh Pawar, objected that if the diagram is shown on the screen, what can the local people say about it?

Chairman said that everyone has been given the right to register suggestions and objections. Collectively, participants demanded that the public hearing be closed if every issue was not discussed.

Participant without saying his name said that the signatures which are being taken outside the entrance, the content of today's public hearing is not written. It should be written.

Participant without saying his name told the audience that please do not create confusion. Each issue will be discussed. Let the presentation take place first, you should write down the points, ask back the points you are not satisfied with. Take it easy. Each point has to be clarified by the Project Consultant. Until you understand, don't get up from here.

When Environmental Consultant was informing the details of project area, Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal objected that project consultant just said that there is no forest land, but the report mentions that forest land will be acquired.

Here, Project Proponent agreed that there is forest land.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked that Project Proponent is going to acquire government land, Cattle grazing land (Gai Ran), but it is not mentioned in the report. Here in the meeting, Project Consultant says that they will not acquire forest land.

Environment Consultant said that forest land will not be required, while non-forest land is 150.745 hectares, including site office and other components.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal raised objection in the report it is mentioned that 200 hector forest land will be acquired. Cattle grazing land will be approximately 150 hectares. It was objected that they are saying no forest land in the public hearing, but the report mentions that they will acquire forest land.

Shri Rohan Bhate, Honorary Warden, Satara District, alleged that the project would take more than 68 hectares of forest land. All the participants asked to see TOR.

At that time, Project Proponent said that there is no forest land in the project. But there is cattle grazing land, it is only in 150 hectares. There is no forest land for the project.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked that it is mentioned in the report.

Project Proponent replied that local people may ask this point in writing, we will give you an answer in writing. Forest land is not required.

Shri Rohan Bhate, Honorary Warden, Satara District here remarked that forest submersion will be affected. Sahyadri Tiger Zone and the Koyna Forest Zone falls in the radius of 10 k.m. of the project site.

Project Proponent said that all necessary legal obligations will be completed. We have a letter from District Forest Officer that there is no forest land in the project.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked prior 7/12 registration was required before conducting public hearing. You had to do it first. Whatever legal obligations are required should be completed first. In this project, information of stream of Andhra Pradesh and river of Kerala is mentioned.

Shri Shivaji Raut, an Environmentalist, Independent Journalist objected that affidavit submitted is bogus.

Here participants demanded that the person who made this cut paste report should be called before the public.

At this time, Environmental Consultant who did the EIA told everyone that this EIA report was prepared by me and I can reply to you in Hindi. He replied in Hindi that we have received a letter from the District Forest Officer. We say that we have not acquired notified government forest area, we have not taken forest department land. The forest may be there on our land. There are two types of land – one government and the other private. Government land may have trees, but that land does not belong to the forest department. Any errors in the report will be corrected.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal:-

Dr. Madhav Gadgil, Dr. Bharat Patankar could not come due to some reasons. On behalf of them, Shri Lohakare, Shri Gavkar and I, Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Association- Shramik Mukti Dal will speak.

The report is wrong and the Environment Public Hearing called on wrong report is illegal. Hence, today's public hearing should be cancelled, and the public hearing should be held again after correcting the report.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that all suggestions, objections raised during the meeting would be noted. Only the presentation should be completed. Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee also appealed to all participants to allow the presentation to be completed. The objections raised by you will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and submitted to the government for their consideration.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked that giving Presentation is of no use. We request Chairman of the Committee to continue the government process, our objection is on the wrong EIA report. He said that we will oppose this project through constitutional means.

Environmental Consultant started showing the presentation again. He said that Environment Baseline – EIA survey is carried in the periphery of 10 km from the project site. An environmental study of the periphery has been carried out. The survey was conducted in January 2023 for winter season and April-May, 2023 for pre-monsoon/summer season.

Environmental Consultant said that the air quality, noise level was within the stipulated standards as approved by Central Pollution Control Board. Also ground water falls under good quality category.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked that we have strong objection regarding the EIA report.

Environmental Consultant has conducted the survey in pre-monsoon and summer. Survival here depends on the monsoons. There are land slides here. Hence, the survey should be carried during monsoon season. While setting up such a big project, it is necessary to carry survey in all three seasons, i.e. whole year.

When Shri Pawar appealed all those present if they agreed, all said that they agreed with a unanimous voice vote.

At that time, Participant without saying said that it is mentioned in the presentation that water near Dhamakwadi is suitable for drinking and water near Khivshi village is suitable for bathing.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked it was necessary that survey should have been carried in all seasons.

Environmental Consultant said that the soil quality was found to be good.

At that time Shri Shivaji Raut, an Environmentalist, Independent Journalist informed that as per the survey carried by Minor Minerals Department of Central Government, there is 38% of Laterite in this soil. Laterite is raw material of Aluminum. Here minor mineral is the main Laterite only. When there

will be mining for acquiring Aluminum in 600 acres of land, this mining will be unaccountably misused.

Shri Raut said that 3,000 tonnes of laterite from 685 towers at Bangalore has been transported illegally from the plateau by eleven companies during the period 1999-2006.

Here, Excavation of 38% Laterite should not be carried out during the construction of reservoir at the upside of this project. A misleading mention is that the soil is good. So it should be noted.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked that now the point regarding Laterite is raised. It is pointed out that where basalt is present, there is less chance of landslides. There have been several incidents of landslides in the past two years. Two villages were destroyed in this Patan taluka, 10-12 people have died. So, it is not assumed that there is Laterite in the soil in this area. The report does not mention of possible loss of life and environmental damage after the excavation. This should be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

Environmental Consultant further informed in the presentation that 104 plant species have been recorded in the area. The observed species do not fall under any endemic or RET category as per Red Data Book of India.

Shri Rohan Bhate, Honorary Warden, Satara District objected and said that lot of plant species are found here of the Red Data Book.

In this cut copy paste report, the species of birds found here are not shown and those which are not here, that are shown. There are species of Schedule 1 in the project area, which are deliberately not shown here. Basically, this is an "Eco-Sensitive Zone" (ESZ). The Sahyadri Tiger Project area and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary project falls under the periphery of 10 k.m. of this project site.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed Shri Rohan Bhate to submit your report in written form. The relevant reports will be submitted to the Government along with the minutes.

Environment Consultant further stated in the presentation regarding biological environment fauna diversity monitoring that no species of fish were caught during the experimental fishing. Total no. of 20 species were found in the study area. Also, there is Reserved Zone near the project is Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, which is 1.5 km. and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, which is 3.2 km. distance.

Here, Shri Shivaji Raut, an Environmentalist, independent journalist, objected and informed that in the lower reservoir of the proposed project, there are seven species of fish i.e. Rohu, Cutla etc. When the water will move from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir, all these fish species will be destroyed.

The natural habitation of fish in the lower reservoir of 5.85 TMC will be destroyed. Because only if the water is stagnant, fishes can reproduce. The fish species in the lower reservoir are going to disappear forever. This is a major biological threat to the environment – this is our objection.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal remarked that if the survey would have carried in rainy season, not thousands but crores of crabs would be seen in the area. There is no mention of this crabs on the plateau here in the EIA report. Crab is an important component of environmental biodiversity.

Environmental Consultant further said in the presentation that the study area covers 75 villages of Patan taluka and 22 villages of Satara taluka of Satara district.

At that time, Mr. Devraj Dada Patil (Dada), former Chairman of Karad Panchayat Samittee, objected that alongwith the villages of Patan and Satara talukas, villages of Karad talukas are affected/benefitted due to this dam. We have objection that it is not mentioned in the report. Karad taluka will also be affected due to this project.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal informed that due to construction of lower reservoir of this project, some people have been affected. Hence, some people live in Karad Taluka and some people live here. While carrying the survey, it would have been appropriate to take the villages of Karad taluka., as Karad Taluka is just 7-8 km distance from the project. If the back side villages of Satara district are covered for study, it would have been appropriate to take the villages of nearby Karad taluka for study, as those villages are also beneficiaries. However, we object that this report is misleading.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee opined that objection is noted that it is necessary to study the impact of this proposed project on the villages of Karad taluka.

Shri Balasaheb Sakpal – Sawargaon,

The study area is said to be going upto the limits of Patan i.e. five kilometer from the recent village of Patan to beyond Thoseghar. Koyna back water, half of the water from Koyna to village Ninoni, where the boundaries of Patan village end. Actually, the survey should have carried till Umbraj. The population of the study area is incorrect. Because even if the number of voters is calculated, it is in lakhs i.e. the children and all the people there, while the population is one and a half lakh.

Shri Sanjaykumar Baburao Sonawale, RTI Activities :-

Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are mentioned in slide no.26. As per my knowledge, the figures are copied of 2011 Census. In 1978, forest department planted trees without acquiring land, most of which land belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Order of Government of 1978 says that those lands are to be given back to small land holders, backward classes people. Still it is pending. Here, another project is being imposed which will displace them. This is objection raised by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes communities.

Environmental Consultant gave the information about the crops in the area while presenting the presentation.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal objected and said that the crop pattern is completely wrong. He informed audience to tell which crops are produced in the fields.

At that time, **Shri Vijay Pawar, Resident-Tondoshi, District-Satara** said that many crops are produced here. I am a farmer with six acres of strawberries here. There was a guava garden, a banana garden. Farmers here have financial problems, so they do not cultivate other crops. As the rainfall is high in the mountains, the farmers here produce rice. But if the farmers here are trained, they will also grow strawberries. I have cultivated strawberries for three years. This soil is so beautiful that what you sow will grow.

Shri Pradeep Nikam opined that natural crops should be separated from the list. But here the issues on environment must be raised.

Advocate Siddhesh Bapusaheb Pawar, Residence-Bambawade Village, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara :-

He pointed that Environment Consultant that you have skipped the point no. 3.13 while presenting. At that time, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said here that the executive summary and the presentation are separate.

Environmental Consultant then started the presentation. He started to share information about the environmental impact of the construction phase.

At this time, **Advocate Siddhesh Bapusaheb Pawar, Residence-Bambawade Village, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara :-**

Though, I raised the issue twice, it is being skipped. Point no. 3.13 - How the project will affect historical sites, religious sites, archaeological sites - I raised the issue twice.

At that time, when Environmental Consultant said that it was not in the presentation, Advocate Siddhesh Bapusaheb Pawar asked whether religious places will not be affected by your project. If you are going to comment later, he can raise the issue later.

Here, Environmental Consultant said that there is an old temple of Jotiba in the village. People from around come to that temple. Temples, mosques fall in the project area. If affected by the project, its renovation will be done under CSR funds.

Advocate Siddesh Bapusaheb Pawar said that there is a temple named Ramghal within the limits of Tondoshi village. Hindu sadhus live there, Hindu devotees are attached to it. Here, 50 kilometer long Vajrai waterfall is mentioned, but there is no mention of religious places within the one kilometer of project site. There is no mention of the proposed impact of the project on the natural waterfall

Participant without saying his name reported that there is Jotiba temple at Jaloshi. There are three temples in the project village Trambe, but no temple is mentioned. This should be noted.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal opined that some deities are local, but Jotiba of Jaloshi village is Kul Swami of many people, hence people come there from 2-4 Talukas.

Participant without saying his name said that In the previous slide it is written that there will be no harm to the environment. Whether blasting and drilling will not be carried during construction phase?

Project Proponent stated that there will be no environmental impact during the construction phase.

Participant without saying his name registered objection, that there was heavy rain two years ago, during which many villagers had to be shifted. If a village like Kalambe stays outside for 15-20 days, how can you say that those villages will not suffer from blasting and drilling? It's going to be more trouble. The report does not mention any danger to the villages in this area during the construction phase of this project. Hence, this should be noted in the report. Many men and women from the project affected villages have come to this meeting today. It has been discussed that survey should be carried during monsoon. During the rainy season, the villagers left their households and stayed elsewhere for shelter. This is not considered in the report.

Here, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee requested all the present citizens that the local people and villagers are raising very good issues.

It will be noted in the minutes of the meeting. But at the same time, they should also submit it in writing. It should be submitted at the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office at Satara. Your written suggestions, objections will be answered by the Project Proponent, and it will be submitted to the Government alongwith minutes of the meeting. An Expert Committee there will take a proper decision in this regard.

Shri Balasaheb Shinde, Former Panchayat Member - said that a written objection has been registered. It is acknowledged. We have the receipt. Even if the project officer says there won't be an impact, there will be an impact. Kalambe, Dafalwadi, Kenjalwadi, Kakhte villages have been shifted. Tondoshi. Jalu and other parts are at downside. The heavy rains that occurred in Patan taluka on July 22, 2021, people of 3-4 generations had never seen such rain. The houses of the people were buried in Patan Taluka. 2-2 feet of land was split. Revenue department gives notice to these villages when the rainy season starts. They are advised that they have been accommodated in a safe place, school, high school and they should move from here during monsoons as your village is in danger. When they do not have their own clothes, they were helped. There are villages upto Bagvewadi, they keep awake from night to night. . However, it is completely wrong for the project officials to say that there will be no problem with the project. Blasting, drilling, if you are going to take water by tunneling, there is definitely a danger to these villages.

Shri Shivaji Raut, Environmentalist, Independent Journalist informed that Sahyadri Plateau is among the World Heritage after Earth's evolution. This plateau of Sahyadri has epicenter/earth quake centre point. Earthquakes of magnitude 2.2 to 4.2 have been recorded daily in the laboratory

in the area. Drilling and blasting poses a threat to the Koyna dam, causing movements in the underground and rocks. This international heritage is about to be destroyed. The Sahyadri Plateau, an international heritage site, will shift its epicenter due to drilling and blasting. The epicenter of the earthquake is going to move to the other side. India is going to cause global damage to the environment. The totally opposite plan is made of blasting near the dam.

Advocate Chetan Kanse -

Locals should be informed which organization prepared the EIA report for the project. What factors did while preparing the report. Before preparation of the EIA report, have any public awareness programs been conducted in the project affected villages about the project and the environmental management plan to be implemented in the project?

According to our information, details about the project has been told in the meeting. The distance and height of the said project from the sea level is not mentioned anywhere in the report and presentation. According to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, projects above 1,000 meters are prohibited. It does not get Environment Clearance. Due to this project on mountain, the wild animals have to come downside. Leopards and other animal have started coming to the villages. This is not mentioned anywhere in the report.

Are people of the affected villages involved in the survey for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report? Also, have the people's representatives taken it into confidence? Also, the locals should be informed whether the said project is a government project or a private project.

A Tribunal has been appointed for the water of Tarali river here. The area of allotment is determined by arbitration. There is no mention of this anywhere in the report. He said that all the participants should take note that the project proponent is going to withdraw the water sanctioned to the area by the Tribunal.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal

The Bachhavat report on Krishna water distribution came out in 1978. Maharashtra received 595 TMC of water. After appealing back to the Tribunal, some TMC water was increased. But after sanctioning the additional water, prior permission of the Tribunal is to be sought while constructing every new dam. This water is in addition to the reserve water for Tarali dam which was sanctioned by the Tribunal. And water intercepted during monsoon is also assumed. So no information has been given whether permission has been obtained or not for this. This year there was less rain. Tarali Dam is not fully filled. Such a situation can occur every 2-4 years due to El Nino. If water from the dam will be less available, where will you get the water for this project? This is a direct encroachment on the water of the people residing downside who are dependent on it for drinking agricultural purposes.

This important issue is not covered in this survey, study. Moreover, there is no mention of Krishna Water Allocation Report, Water Conservation Account in the EIA report.

Shri Shivaji Raut, an Environmentalist, Independent Journalist, objected that most importantly, the deprived villages of the Tarali project would never get

water for irrigation in the rehabilitation benefit area. There are 43 villages in the benefit area. Without considering their need, a private entrepreneur wants to buy the stolen electricity at a low price. Wind power and nuclear power used to be bought at Rs 4 10 paise a night and sold to industries at Rs 7 20 paise. A private company will earn money through government electricity. Forest is ours, land is ours, dams are ours, the houses of ours will be destroyed, and private entrepreneurs will make money. There are 676 account holders who are yet to be rehabilitated. They are deprived of rehabilitation. The government has no land to give for rehabilitation. These resettled villages are deprived of civic amenities. However, this project is a project that destroys the environment here and we are registering strong opposition against the project.

Shri Jayawantrao Salunkhe Chorekar -

Everyone is against the project, similarly I am also against the project. Tarali dam is built for agricultural and drinking water purposes. Villages that have been rehabilitated due to this dam are near to my Chore village and area. It has to be mentioned that rehabilitation of Pambe village, Nivade village is not yet complete. It was promised that when people are displaced/affected, they will be allotted land only in the village where they will be resettled, they have not yet been allotted land. While the government has guaranteed to bring 100% irrigation in the areas where the land will be given, today the government has not provided water supply system for agriculture in any village.

That is, because of the sacrifice of the people who gave their land to built the dam, those people are not yet fully rehabilitated, moreover, new project will be built is the intention of the government. Water which comes from the power

generation, as we see from Koyna dam goes directly to the sea. Now here the water of power generation is going to be released in the riverbed, that water is not in the resettled villages, but the agriculture in all the villages of the riverbed in the benefit area will become barren and the animals in that area will have to die. No matter how big the person is, the general public, the surrounding birds and animals are important, hence the opposition to the project. People will not allow if they are going to disturb and displace to make someone bigger. We will fight with bloodshed but will not allow the project to commission in any way.

Project consultant then started making the presentation. He said that Rs 10 crore will be given to the CSR fund in the development plan.

At that time Shri Shivaji Raut, an environmentalist, independent journalist

– said that civic amenities are essential for the citizens of the area. For that, it is said to be 10 crores at one place, 20 crores at another. So, why not determine the percentage there. Why is there no mention in the report that 50% of the CSR funds will be used for development works in the area? That's how it should be.

Do not give Project Affected Persons the misleading, vague promises. CSR Provision made of ten crore is just fake promise. One of the richest man in the world planned CSR fund of only ten crores of rupees for the development of the area is completely misleading.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal

When the wind power project was built here, there was opposition from the locals. Later, Gram Panchayat was involved in that project. Then fifteen thousand rupees per megawatt per year is given to the Gram Panchayats. In earlier

projects, the right of Gram Panchayats has been accepted. As there is nothing dangerous about that wind-power project, the local people supported it. The CSR funding shown in this project may not be acceptable to the public.

Shri Patil

Now the information given regarding the CSR fund, this provision has been made while sitting in the air-conditioned office. Local needs are not considered. There is a school at a distance of 100 meters in this hilly area. The report did not mention the school. CSR funds are provided without considering the needs of the local people here. We are opposing this project if it is going to force the local people to leave their villages.

Advocate Kanse - Slide No. 33 should be taken. He read out point no.1. It will also lead to human-wildlife conflict through destruction of natural habitats, loss of agricultural crops, orchards, and loss of livestock. This means that the project promoter has accepted this. This means that there will be a conflict between the wildlife and the locals. However, this project is strongly opposed by environmental protection and wildlife protection.

Also point number 2 asserts that these impacts can be mitigated by implementing the interventions proposed under the Biodiversity Conservation and Wildlife Management Plan including green belt development schemes and public awareness programmes. An explanation should be given regarding the future measures to be taken in this regard. The project will bring down the wildlife from the hills. Only now the leopards and Bison in the area have started attacking the human settlements. So green belt development, how to create public awareness, implementation plan, loss of human life due to wildlife, loss of agriculture should be explained in detail in the meeting.

Mr. Shivaji Raut, environmentalist, independent journalist - while registering objection said that an important issue is being raised here. Windmills are supplying electricity generated as per MERC rules to MSEB's grid. There is a wind energy racket.

Shri Navnath Mane, Residence – Tondishi, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara

- The four villages of Tondishi, Kalambe, Nivade, Dafalwadi are going to be affected. The gram panchayats of these affected villages have not been informed about the project by the company or the government. Dangstewadi is not directly related to this project. But the village of Dangtsatewadi is mentioned to mislead the people.

This village has a traditional farming system – it is called Adwa Pat, water is supplied to the farm through gravity. Due to this project, horizontal flat farming, which is a traditional practice, which has come under irrigation, will be completely destroyed.

Professor Ashok Patil, Residence – Mumbai:-

I am from Mumbai. This is an environmental public hearing. Our objections have been sent in writing. No one talks about those objections. People raised the question that after the proposed electricity generation, whether this electricity will be supplied to the grid and separately to the consumer is not known. He said that the company's environmental consultant is from Gurugram, Haryana, the company will set up in Maharashtra. The presentation is being done by environmental consultants. There are many discrepancies in the project report. The survey conducted while preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not for a year. It has a different climate in summer and a different climate in winter. I am proud that the people here are aware of the environment and have

registered very appropriate suggestions and objections. Local crops are not mentioned in the report. At that time, it was said that strawberries, mulberry, pachgani fruits which are grown in Mahabaleshwar are produced here. Local animals are not well known here. No mention of crabs here.

It is mentioned in the project that if the religious place is disturbed due to the project, suitable arrangements will be made in this regard. That means they don't guarantee to it. He appealed to the audience not to become happy with the fact that the CSR fund will spend Rs 10 crore. I am a social worker, so my request remains that the project promoters should complete this project. But this EIA report is biased. And objections, suggestions and their answers should be given to public in public hearing only.

Environmental Consultant started making the presentation. Locals will be given priority while giving job opportunities in the proposed project.

At that time **Mr. Vijay Pawar, Tondoshi, District-Satara** objected that after the project starts you will bring in outsiders to run the canteen. We will hire an outside contractor. Local people should be given priority in the project.

On this occasion, **Shri Sakpal** appealed to the audience that this is an environmental public hearing, and we are expected to raise environmental issues regarding the proposed project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the presentation is over and the participants can raise any environmental suggestions, objections they have about the proposed project. It will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Everyone should state his full name and place of residence before registering suggestions, objections. 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 :-

Shri Suresh Patil, Residence – Nate, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara :-

I am a party worker. The question is whether project come for the good of the people or to destroy the people. There were five dams in the taluka, how many farmers have benefited, which environment has changed, people are fooled by falsehoods, without giving any suggestion or idea to the people, discussion on environment is going on here.

Today there are many medicinal plants in this area. They will perish. Windmills came here in the taluka, at that time it was promised to plant thousands of trees here, the environment would not be damaged, it was guaranteed to provide employment to a family member, this project should be opposed 100%. I am against this project.

Here, **Shri Navnath Sakpal**, requested participants that first environmentalist / organizations and RTI activists, then their advocates on behalf of Kalmbe villagers, then Mr. Prashant Pawar, Satara district dam affected/project affected organizations will speak:-

Shri Kiran Lohakare, Residence – Pune -

I am Speaking on behalf of Dr. Bharat Patankar, Shripad Dharmadhikari of Manthan Sanstha and others. The purpose of this public hearing was to inform the local people about the possible effects of the proposed project on the environment and the measures to be taken by the Project Proponent in the future. This project was expected to be understood by the people, and the plan should be implemented only after discussing with the people. But here, 37-38 slides were

shown in the presentation without discussing it with the people and the locals have raised objections pointing out many errors in it. Many issues were raised through Dr. Bharat Patankar, local people also raised very good objections. All have registered objections to the studies and surveys that have been done for the project. Everyone has objections to the information that was collected. Apart from the points raised by the participants, I would like to comment here on other points:

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Objection No.1 :-

This report is a copy paste report. This report was submitted to the Government, but it does not seem to have been viewed there. Andhra Pradesh is mentioned in this report, and no one has checked it.

Objection No.2 :-

The second objection is regarding forest land. At one place, it is said that forest land will not be acquired, while on the other hand TOR mentions that 63.10 hectares of forest land will be acquired. How can there be such a discrepancy in a single report? This is a serious issue, and we object to it

Objection No.3 :-

The third objection is that while preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, some guidelines have been passed by the Central Government. Accordingly, this EIA report is expected. The first issue is whether there are any options for setting up and running the project. It is necessary to study in this context. There is no mention of another alternative project site for this project.

Objection No.4 :-

The information about the effect of this project on the natural streams in the area was expected in the report. It is not. Such a big project is bound to affect the natural streams here.

Objection No.5:-

In the project, water from the lower reservoir will be lifted and taken to the upper reservoir. This will affect the life cycle of aquatic life in the lower reservoir. It will have an environmental impact. It is not mentioned in the report.

Thus, Project Proponent has violated the directives of ToR. We strongly object to this.

Objection No.6:-

The next issue is irrigation. Many people have talked about this. According to the figures I have, 10.42 million cubic meters of water will be used for this project. Therefore, approximately 2,000 hectares of irrigated area will be reduced at the downside of project areas. We object to this result.

Objection No.7:-

It is said that there will be no impact on ground water. While conducting the survey for Environmental Impact Assessment Report, the water samples tested by them for ground water quality, drinking water quality, are within the standard limits, but the water samples should be compared to the acceptable limits. This is our objection.

Objection No.8:-

There will be many dire effects on the biodiversity of the area. According to the information given by the locals in the meeting, many animals and plants in the area falls under red category. Project promoter's environmental consultant has

not provided that information, in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

Objection No.9:-

Those present in the meeting have already said that the project area is an earthquake prone area. The epicenter of the earthquake is nearby. No information has been given in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report about this.

These are my serious objections. This should be noted. We have also registered written objections. However, the Environmental Impact Assessment report should be re-prepared and then public environmental hearings should be again conducted as demanded.

Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal

Dr. Bharat Patankar could not come here. There are many project victims in the meeting. Patan taluka is the only taluka in Maharashtra to have one grand dam, seven major dams and seventeen minor dams. Residents of Patan taluka have suffered a lot for all these projects, i.e. encroachment, displacement for this project and now why should they bear encroachment and displacement again for this new project is the question of the residents of Patan taluka due to this project.

There is again conception that for yet another project, the locals will have to be displaced, deprived of the water they are getting. Therefore, there is strong opposition to the project from the people of the potentially affected areas due to the proposed project. I now present the main points –

Objection No.1:-

In the beginning, we said that this is a copy paste report. Therefore, this environmental public hearing is illegal and should be cancelled.

Objection No.2:-

EIA Report Page no. 6, 150 hectares of land has been requested. While in the report it is written that the land affected for the upper reservoir falls in the entire forest area, the Environmental Consultant is lying in the meeting that the forest land does not come. Then back to Question No. 17 it is said that additional 63 hectares of forest land is required. It means minimum 125-150 hectares of land is assumed. An EIA is incomplete and unacceptable if any or several of the conditions in the TOR are not complied with.

Objection No.3:-

The next point is that the dam is built for fulfilling irrigation needs. We have done a study on how much water is stored in this project. Every year from December-January the water level in the dam decreases. The proposed project is a 24X7 365 days project. The water level drops considerably in May. It means the feasibility of the project which the promoters are saying is completely wrong. So, we suspect that Project Proponent has to consume all the water.

Objection No.4:-

When there is Weak Period, the best flow is not studied or measured in the EIA report, it is not mentioned anywhere.

Objection No.5:-

The assessment of the water depth that will be reduced by pulling the water upward is completely wrong. As per our knowledge 10.42 water reserve is required. While the documentation shows that it will stay, it doesn't seem like it will happen. We have submitted written suggestions and are being submitted

back. It should be reviewed in detail. The review meeting will be held after the meeting today. Elected representatives should be called in it. All our points should be considered while preparing the minutes of the meeting. We also demand that today's public hearing be cancelled.

Shri Shivaji Raut, Environmentalist, Independent Journalist:-

I have presented my issues in the meeting. I will not repeat it. I have sent my objections about the proposed project to all departments before 25 days. While registering objections, I have submitted my copies to Anti-Corruption Bureau, Central Vigilance Commission, Enforcement Directorate (ED) and will continue to do so.

Government of Maharashtra issues a notification for this project in 2014 and in 2024 environmental public hearing is held for the project to get environmental clearance from Government of India. But while working as a Whistle Blower Activist, when everyone is against this project here, if the favorable report of the project goes to the Central Government, then as a Whistle Blower Activist, I have already demanded the Central Vigilance Commission to investigate all the government officials. It is the duty of Central and State Governments to protect the lives of Indian citizens. It is a life and death battle to save this project from the hand and throat of big capitalists.

However, we request the Environment Public Hearing Committee that we will march against this project in a legal way and do satyagriha. Everyone has opposed in the meeting. If it is not recorded in the report, all the officials of the administration who approved the project in 2014 and organized this meeting in 2024 will be held responsible.

Similarly, as there is a threat to my life in the meeting and later, I am making a statement to the representatives of the District Collector in the meeting that Government should take responsibility for it and request that the written statement be taken seriously.

Shri Ajitrao Patil Chikhalikar, District – Satara –

I was a Member of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. You had published an advertisement for the public hearing in the English newspaper Indian Express. Now who will read the English paper in Kalambe village? Also, the Marathi newspaper Pudhari is read to a lesser extent here. The proper course of action for the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was to send notices to the gram panchayats in the area and direct them to hold gram sabhas. Participants raised many issues related to environment, rehabilitation. He asked how Maharashtra Pollution Control Board got involved here.

At that time, **Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee** informed that as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended in 2009, it is mandatory for certain projects to obtain Environmental Clearance before executing the project. In order to obtain Environmental Clearance, it is mandatory to conduct a public hearing on environmental issues and the project promoters have to submit an application for the project to the Environment Department.

Here Project Proponent has to submit to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. There, the application is scrutinized. Then the TOR is issued to the project promoters. Accordingly, the Project Proponent prepares a draft Environmental Impact Assessment report by

conducting a survey of 10 km radius of the project area from a NABET approved organization. After that, the project promoters must submit an application to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

According to Notification, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Conducts Environment Public Hearingst. According to the said notification, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board constitutes a Environment Public Hearing Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Magistrate or his representative. In it, the Regional Officer of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is Member and the Local Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is Convener.

Representative, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed that if in the meeting you record relevant environmental suggestions, thoughts, objections about the proposed project, then it will be properly included in the minutes of the meeting and it will be submitted to the Central Government. The Public Hearing Committee on Environment has understood the feelings of the people present here. Arrange them all correctly.

This Committee does not approve, reject, or recommend projects. The function of this Committee is to submit its environmental sentiments of the local people about the proposed project to the government. The appropriate decision of the project is taken by the expert committee of the environment department of the central government or the state government. This committee acts as a co-ordinator between the central government or the state government and the public.

Here, Shri Prashant Pawar, Satara District Dam Affected/Project Affected Organization, Shramik Mukti Dal raised the point that we have written letters to Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board regarding calling of officers

of other departments such as Forest, Irrigation Departments. This is serious lapse which should be rectified.

Representative, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee further said that it is mandatory to constitute Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and amended 2009. Your suggestions have been noted.

Shri Ajit Patil while registering objection said that the area is very beautiful for tourism. But the situation should not be like the one in Himachal Pradesh which was flooded due to Tehri Dam. Here PAPs affected by Tarali Dam are on road – they are not yet rehabilitated. The project victims affected by Urmodi dam are on the road – not still rehabilitated. We are not getting enough water as per our right. This natural environment is more important than Switzerland. All the farmers here will oppose this project to the point of bloodshed. Here we are speaking as the representatives of the locals and the entire community is against this project. Now there is no drinking water here. He appealed to the audience to protest; all the attendees raised their hands in protest.

Shri Sushant More, Social Worker, RTI Activities,

In 2022, Maharashtra government approved three out of five projects on the Sahyadri mountain ranges. Among them are Padgaon Dam in Kolhapur District, Tarali Dam in Satara and Warasgaon Dam in Pune. As Kolhapur was united, the Forest Department did not undertake the project. Here we came together. We have registered written complaints, objections. The basic point is that the forest department's letter is not in the EIA report, the forest officer is not present here. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has not properly considered Environmental impact of the proposed project. Bio-diversity is abundant here and

will be lost due to this project. This project will have a negative impact on the environment. The number of langur species of monkey in the area is not listed. Nowhere is it mentioned that twelve types of trees will be destroyed. Permission letter from MERC not provided. The following laws are violated here.

- i) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- ii) Wild Life Protection Act, 1972;
- iii) Land Acquisition Act, 2013;
- iv) Rehabilitation Act, 2013;

Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated September 14, 2006 Page Nos, 3,4 and 5,9 and 37,38,39. Similarly, objection of farmers should be noted. Objections should be answered in writing. A copy of the minutes of the meeting should be obtained.

Advocate Atamaram Kamble, On Behalf of Kalambe Village -

Welcome to all. The first problem is why government officials and people's representatives are putting a finger on their lips? Our fear is going to increase if the mountain is going to be flooded while taking the water from downside in this project. The people of our village had given seven hectares of land to the Gagangiri Maharaj Trust. Since 2019, we have been requesting them to give us the rest of the land as there is landslide here. Management of Gagangiri Maharaj Trust informed us that the permission should be taken from the Collector. Collector's representative is present here. So, we say here that whether this project happens or not, we are going to go and rehabilitate the area where the public hearing about the project is going on before monsoon. If there is a landslide, none of us will be alive. Because even though this is an environmental public hearing, it is a matter of life and death. Our land has also been acquired. We had said that

we will not give Gairan land. A resolution was also passed in the Gram Sabha not to give Our Gayran land has also been taken. We had said that we will not give Gairan land. A similar resolution was also taken in the Gram Sabha of our village. Later went to Minor Irrigation Department. According to the letter given by it, this land is seven acres. When Project promoter asked about the location of the proposed project, he pointed out that 2/3rd area of our Percolation Pond/Pazar lake is going to be used in the project. 1/3 will live in the village. All Kalambe village will be affected by this project. We are going to be victimized in this project.

Pazar Lake is a neighbour. Due to blasting, the percolation pond will be cracked. First the landslide, then the blasting, the breach of the seepage lake, finally we have no choice but to come here. This should be noted. The cracks in the Pazar lake are going to go away, besides the blasting will cause massive landslides already. There are big cracks here, Collector is requested to visit and inspect the site now. People fear that the project will use methane and carbon. We don't know whether it is true or false, but this question needs to be answered. How did the project get permission when it is coming to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve area?

The water supply of Kalambe village is entirely dependent on Pazar Lake. If we consider the entire dam area, 2/3 will go to the project and 1/3 will be given to the locals. That is, we do not know whether we are Bhumiputras or not. What steps will the government take to ensure transparency and dispel the fears of the public due to the secrecy surrounding this project? The EIA report for this project does not mention the school itself. This project will affect the water supply and water source of Kalambe village. It will also be closed. All springs, water sources will be destroyed, will go into the dam wall.

The water coming from the hill/mountain will go into the dam of the project, our dam will be depleted. The water in the dam will also dry up. There will be no water for agriculture, the farmers of the downside villages will be devastated. During the construction of the said project, the water of Pazar lake will be polluted due to cement and sand. village gets its water from the same seepage lake; the health risk of the people will increase due to the contaminated water. During the project construction phase, the problem could become serious as sewage from the workers colony living here gets mixed with the seepage pond, threatening the health of the village.

During the construction phase of the project, there is a possibility of flooding in the village due to heavy vehicles and heavy machinery on the road. Secrecy has been maintained regarding the affected area of Kalambe village, the government area and the area of the village. During the construction phase of the project, due to blasting, landslides will occur in the hills near the village. The cracks in the fields are going to get bigger.

There is no study in the report on the potential loss of downstream agriculture while diverting water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir. Kalambe village is in danger due to this project and rehabilitation of the village should be done immediately. Whether this project happens or not, we are pursuing rehabilitation from 2019 onwards.

This Gagangiri Maharaj Sansthan's plot of seven acres, if the management of Trust has suggested to bring the Collector's permission, then the Collector is requested to meet us as soon as possible, meet us before we are buried in landslides, because this is a matter of our life and death.

In this regard, the people's representatives and government officials have their fingers on their lips. These are our objections and should be noted. We are against this project.

Shri Devraj Dada Patil (Dada), Former Chairman of Karad Panchayat Samittee,

On behalf of 90 villages from Tarale Basin to Thoseghar –

All the government officers, project officers who came to the meeting and all the respectable villagers who opposed the project, all the scholars from Umbraj to Tarale have recorded their opinions, suggestions and objections about this project. Tarale Dam is 5.85 TMC. As per allocation, 4.0 TMC has been allocated to drought prone areas. 1.85 TMC of water occurs in Patan, Satara, Karad area.

The survey of this project did not mention that the same amount of rain falls in Koyna reservoir. Now in the presentation, it was said that this project includes tunneling, blasting. This will create a threat to the wall of Tarali Dam. Last two years there was heavy rain. The entire area from Tarale basin to Umbraj was under water. If it rains heavily here, it won't take long for the area to turn to Malin incidence occurred in Maharashtra. We are strongly opposed to this project which will destroy the living creatures in the area. Human lives, wildlife, environment will be destroyed, thousands of trees will be slaughtered. It should be noted that we have strong opposition here. From Tarali River Basin to Umbraj, all gram panchayats, social activists, various organizations have registered their views and objections. Minutes of the meeting will be submitted to the Central Government in English

It is requested to translate the submitted objections into English and provide us with a copy of the report which will be submitted to the Central

Government. Do not want this destructive project in this area. The project affected people who gave land for this Tarali Dam have not been rehabilitated yet. Even today the farmers here do not get water for agriculture. Due to this project, the native villages here will not remain without pollution. However, we strongly oppose this project.

Advocate Chetan Kanase, Residence-Tarale, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara -

My first objection is to this public hearing itself. Is this public hearing legal or illegal? A public notice regarding the public hearing process was published by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in the local newspaper Pudhari in Marathi and in the national newspaper Indian Express. The number of objections received should be disclosed here. It has not been done, so I object to the public hearing meeting. However, the public hearing process should be cancelled. I will not say anything about the project here. Because here many people have raised various issues regarding it. What is the legality of this public hearing? Also, have the objections received by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in the notified government office brought here? Answer it.

Directives regarding public hearing as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and amended 2009 have not been followed.

Shri Kanse appealed to the audience that this project needs to be re-assessed. Locals should be involved in the assessment. However, my first objection is that this public hearing itself is inherently invalid. However, this should be canceled and no report should be sent.

Advocate Siddhesh Pawar -

What was the involvement of the environmental public hearing committee sitting on the platform in this public hearing?

My first objection is that the presentation that was shown was not visible to the audience. None of the diagrams, images, sentences appeared properly on the screen. Also, the attendees did not know the information about the project. In this report, wrong information about land, water, air quality has been given.

If the consultant of the Project Proponent presented the data collected while preparing the report, the reference and official links about the data collected from where it was collected, what aspects were studied, are not mentioned in this report.

It is not mentioned how many local organizations of the project affected villages; local practitioners were consulted/stakeholders involved in the project monitoring while monitoring the project. During the survey, the site inspection is not done by going to respective spot/place, this report is prepared on the table, in the air-conditioned office. This project is taken from the internet, the images here are included in the report. No compilation is official. Also no official reference appears

My next objection is that the presentation of this project is deliberately made in such a way that it will not be understood by the common man. The presentation itself is wrong. There is no mention of how much forest will be destroyed in the affected area, how many wild animals, domestic animals will be affected. Participants should state which of the anticipated impacts and mitigation measures devised by the Adani Group have been identified. While stating the results of the project, the solutions are not mentioned. They have not shown the

damage that will be caused by the project in the affected areas, as there is no solution.

EIA report of this project is very sketchy and does not show any real situation. The report states that the inspection was carried out in September 2023. Before submitting the project, it was necessary to conduct a survey in all three seasons. The natural sources of water here have not been studied. While surveying people went to land and prepared report, went to private property of person, inspected, prepared report, how many people were taken into confidence at that time. How many Gram Panchayats did the project promoters take prior permission before conducting the survey?

It is unwise to go and inspect private property. This is a preliminary report and public hearing cannot be held on this report. However, according to the demand, a survey of all the seasons should be conducted once a year and a report should be prepared, after which the public hearing should be held again. Until then, this public hearing should be cancelled.

Advocate Saurabh Deshpande, One Neutral:-

As a neutral observer, I would like to point out two points. I have been working in the field of environmental protection and conservation for the last 15 years. Shri Rohan Bhate, Honorary Forest Guard of the Forest Department came here. The environmental issues raised by him and the participants are literally true. The company that prepares the EIA report is from Haryana. What did they come here to survey? That report is bogus and misleading. There are errors on page after page, even in the scientific method there are errors.

Another thing is that the Tarali project is for drinking water and irrigation. This project belongs to a private company. Supreme Court has given Judgment that water, forest, natural resources should not be privatized. This project is in violation of it. Natural resources should not be privatized under any circumstances. It is publicly owned.

Shri Jayawantrao Salunkhe Chorekar -

To the west of my village, there are villages called Sakharwadi. Bhagatwadi. It is 1-1 1/2 km from Forest Department. Generations passed, until today there was no tar road.

The road was paved in Sakharwadi, there is a ban on road construction forever. Follow up with authorities has been taken many times, we are not heeded. We are suffering a lot from animals. But how does this project get all the permissions? We all should know the secret behind this. It takes years of effort to give permission to the villagers, but the people of Patan taluka do not know how this disastrous project is. Although this project is given the sweet name of power generation, there is a huge scandal behind it.

Our area has been excavated by the Global Division, and it has been observed that there are numerous types of minor minerals. It contains aluminum, bauxite in huge amount. There is a big scandal of land mining in the name of power generation.

In the presentation, it was said that 10 crore funds will be provided for CSR. So, all the people are told that the promoters of the project should tell us how much money they want, we will give it, but they should not come here. Those who gave their land and houses for the project here have not been rehabilitated

yet. Local people were promised jobs in the project, which have not been provided. A promise was made to provide healthcare at government expense, but that too has not been fulfilled. We know only one thing – this land is mine, the village is mine, the environment is mine, so the project promoters should not come here. We are all strongly opposed the project

He appealed to all those present to raise their hands if they were all opposed to the project. All present raised their hands in a voice vote.

Shri Balasaheb Narayanrao Jadhav, Residence-Kalambe, Taluka – Patan, District – Satara:-

Local people are concerned about the project. It rained heavily here. Strap in bottom edge, top rot. The ground has moved, the field has gone down twelve feet. The poor have no value. So, everyone get together. As discussed in the meeting, there will be incidence of Malin one day. Here many local participants expressed their views.

There were three 50-foot cracks and the ground collapsed. Eleven houses in the village were broken, the ground moved. This project is the name of power generation. Don't want this project here. Earlier, perennial water was available here, now there is no drinking water. The house fell due to soil erosion. Project blasting will further damage the house. We are against this project, we will shed our blood, but we will not allow this project to happen here.

Local Shri Balasaheb Sapkal, resident of Savargaon told participants that we have to take two resolutions here.

Many projects came in this valley of Sahyadri, many lures and promises were given. But as a victim of the project, always suffered eternal sorrow and pain. The

hardworking man here put his sweat and blood to build natural agriculture. But due to such a disastrous project, the people here were victimised and must leave the area. However, we are opposed to any project other than tourism here.

RESOLUTION No.1 -

We do not want this project, and we want to banish this project forever. 100% this project should be expelled from the Tarali basin.

All present agreed by raising their hands by voice vote.

RESOLUTION No.2 -

Environment Public Hearing of the project is basically illegal and we local people do not accept it. However, this environmental public hearing process should be cancelled.

All present agreed by raising their hands by voice vote

Shri Ajit Patil, Ex-Member, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

gave the slogans that Adani Hatao, to which all those present chanted Tarali Bachao. They shouted slogans like Kareng Ya Mareng, Ladeng Aur Jiteng.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to all participants to register environmental suggestions, thoughts, objections about the proposed project. There was no response from the audience.

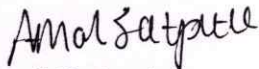
While concluding the meeting, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all the participants for attending the meeting. He said that the suggestions/objections raised in the public hearing will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting along with written suggestions/objections as received with video recording of the meeting as it will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,

Government of India, New Delhi with the approval of the Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee through Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there will take further decision.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee thanked all the participants on behalf of Hon'ble Chairman for attending the meeting and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman of Environment Public Hearing declared that, Environmental Public Hearing is concluded.

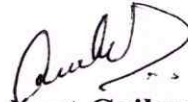
Public Hearing ended with thanks to the Chair.

Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Satara, has received total of 490 No. of written suggestions/objections. All these written suggestions/objections are enclosed herewith as Annexure from Page No. 1 to 1415



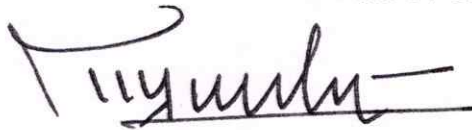
(Amol Satpute)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And Sub Regional Officer,
M. P. C. B. Satara



(Prashant Gaikwad),

Member Representative for
Regional Officer,
M. P. C. B. Pune
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And Sub-Regional Officer,
M. P. C. B. Pune.



(Nagesh Patil)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And Upper District Magistrate, Satara
(Hon'ble Resident Deputy Collector Satara.)

