

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing for Proposed Bhivpuri (1000 MW) Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) being implemented At Mouje-Bhivpuri village, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra By Project Proponent M/s The Tata Power Company Limited, Mouje- Bhivpuri Village, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed Bhivpuri (1000 MW) Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) being implemented at Mouje-Bhivpuri Village, Taluka-Karjat District-Raigad, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s The Tata Power Company Limited, Mouje -Bhivpuri Village, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad (410 201) Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, the 12th April, 2024 at Tata Power Company Limited, Hydro Generating Station, P.O. Bhivpuri Camp, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad (410 201), Maharashtra at 12.00 noon.

Shri R. S. Kamat, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Navi Mumbai and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sandesh Shirke, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Shri Jayvant S. Hajare, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels, Police Administration and Company Officials and local people / participants who were present and with permission of Chairman. The 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, Govt. of India) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct Public hearing for public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of proposed project falls under Category (A) and schedule 1 (C) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior Environment Public Hearing is mandatory.

Convener informed that the object of conducting Environment Public Hearing is to make aware about the proposed project to local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee explained that the basic purpose of the environmental public hearing is to inform the general public about the proposed project, about the project area, the effects of the project and the feelings / views of the general public about it, also to inform the general public about the pollution control facilities required in the project and to consider their suggestions, and it is to know the problems of the residents of the people who will be displaced by the project. The environmental suggestions, criticisms and objections raised by the locals and public regarding the proposed project are to be recorded and included in the minutes of the meeting and the said minutes are submitted to the government.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application along with pre-feasibility report on 07.08.2023 to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. It has been considered and given online approval for Term of References (ToR) for this proposed project on 23.09.2023.

Then Project Proponent M/s The Tata Power Company Limited has duly submitted online application to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 22.02.2024 to conduct Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Upgrading the collection for the proposed Bhivpuri (1,000 MW) Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped-Storage project (PSP) at Mouje – Bhivpuri, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad, Maharashtra.

Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 23.02.2023 informed Sub Regional Office-Raigad - 2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 410 201 to start the process of conducting Environment Public Hearing regarding the proposed project.

After approval received from District Collector, Raigad vide letter dated 07.03.2024 to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 12.04.2024 at 12.00 noon, and as per the Notification dated 14.09.2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01.12.2019. The Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 129 of

2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 240402- FTS- 0235 dated 02-04-2024

as under: -

- | | | |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | District Magistrate – Raigad or his representative not below the rank of an Additional District Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2 | Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, - Regional Officer – Raigad, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - | Member |
| 3 | Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2 Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai. | Convener |

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai in the Local Marathi Newspaper Daily Krushival and Daily Raigad Times and in English newspaper National Newspaper Indian Express on 11th March, 2024. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary 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, Raigad.
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Raigad.
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad.
- 5) Sub Divisional Officer-Alibag, Tal – Alibag, District – Raigad.
- 6) Sub Divisional Officer-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, District- Raigad.
- 7) Tahsildar-Alibag, Taluka-Alibag, District- Raigad.
- 8) Tahsildar-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, District- Raigad.
- 9) Police Superintendent, Taluka-Alibag, District- Raigad.
- 10) Gram Panchayat Office – Taluka – Karjat -

Tembhare, Pathraj, Wakas, Khandas, Mograj, Narsapu, Chinchavali, Savale, Mandavane, Bhalivadi, Kadav, Wavloli, Savele Kondivade, Ambit, Wajinath, Bhivpuri, Humgaon, Potal, Pali (T), Kothal Khalati, Warai (T), Need, Gaurkamat, Wadap, Wengaoon, Khandape, Tivare Borivali, Kashele.

- 11) Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032.
- 12) Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022.
- 13) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 6th Floor, Raigad Bhavan, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614.
- 14) Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.
- 15) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai.

Convener, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2, informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614 has received one suggestion and one objection by email regarding the proposed project.

One suggestion dated 08.04.2024 is received from Shri Sunanda Reddy, President, Dharitri Paryavaran Training Institute, Nalgonda, Telangana and he has given some suggestions and extended unconditional support to the proposed project.

Shri Prasad Khare, Senior Defence Officer has raised objections regarding 96 (Ninety-Six) discrepancies in Environment Impact Assessment Report regarding the proposed project vide email dated 11.04.2024. It is informed to the Project Proponent regarding the same. The written reply from the Project Proponent will be submitted to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Govt. of India, New Delhi along with minutes of the meeting.

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

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the

project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairperson will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same He requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

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

Project Proponent stated that the total expenditure for the said proposed project is estimated at Rs. 4743.59 crores and capital expenditure for environmental management is estimated at Rs. 23.76 Crs. and recurrent expenditure at Rs. 44.36 Crs. for the period of 7 years. The project will require around 1,000 to 1,500 nos of temporary personnel during the construction phase and all the manpower will be appointed from local villages.

Project Proponent (PP) said that the proposed project is the 1,000 MW Bhivpuri Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Project (PSP) Hydroelectric Project planned at Mauje Bhivpuri Camp in Karjat Taluka of Raigad District. In the said project, water from the existing Thokarwadi Dam reservoir at Mauje Wadeshwar, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune in Indrayani River basin will be used as Upper Reservoir and here water will be brought down 550 meters and a stone dam will be constructed for the new Lower Reservoir at Mauje-Bhivpuri Camp in Karjat Taluka of Raigad District.

PP said that Off-stream Open Loop Pumped -Storage -Project (PSP) means there is an upstream/downstream reservoir, water Conveying System, Powerhouse, Generator, etc. The rate of solar energy and wind energy in the country is increasing not only in India, but all over the world. Solar power is only available for part of the day, while wind power is seasonal and unreliable. If solar energy is stored after generation, it can be used 24 hours a day whenever we want. So, there is a system available to use when eco-friendly and cheap storage is required, that is Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped-Storage Project - hydroelectric power plant. When solar energy is available, it is used to pump water into the upper reservoir. The water from the

lower reservoir is pumped into the upper reservoir, about 540 meters high. When solar energy is not available and there is a demand for electricity, it uses the water from the upper reservoir to power the same machine as a turbine and generator, generating electricity and feeding it to the grid and storing water in the lower reservoir is part of the Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped-Storage Project Hydroelectric Project. Same PSP hydropower project has been functioning at Bhira for the last 25 years. As shown in the map, 80% of the project is in Raigad district, 20% in Pune district.

During the construction phase of the project, the domestic wastewater generated from the labour colony and various construction activities will be treated in proposed absorption pits and sewage treatment plant. During the project construction phase, vehicular traffic, blasting may cause noise pollution. Various measures such as control blasting will be taken in this regard.

The e-Waste generated in the project will be scientifically disposed off as per the guidelines passed by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Hence no damage will cause on environment point of view.

Project Proponent said that various components will be spent under the Environmental Management Plan. Tata Power has been operating here for more than hundred years. Therefore, the Tata group and the local people of Karjat taluka are here as a family. The project proponent is conducting various social and educational activities in the area. The Club Energy initiative teaches school children how to save energy.

Many Government schemes do not reach the needy people of society. So, the activities that are implemented to create public awareness in this regard, for example - Sukanya Samrudhi Yojana is a special scheme of the Central Government for girls, many people do not know about it, we work to bring such schemes to the people.

Anokha Dhaaga is an activity implemented by the project. There women are trained in sewing. Through that initiative, the local women here have done the best work during the Covid period. They have produced lakhs of masks and distributed them nationwide. Different branches of Anokha Dhaaga initiative are located at Bhivpuri, Bhira, District-Raigad and Vadeshwar, Mulshi, District-Pune. When we were using masks during the covid period, we were proud of the local women who were using the masks from this initiative.

Also, papad rolling machine has been provided to the local women here and they are taking advantage of it. Women here are trained to run cottage industries. For this we have entered into a bilateral agreement with Selco Foundation. Here the machines are solar powered.

From time to time we undertake programs to create health / hygienic awareness among adolescent girls.

One of the biggest problems faced by schools in rural areas is the supply of electricity. Many a times there is load shedding, even in school, since teaching is done on computers, nothing can run without the availability of electricity. So we are working on how to improve the quality of school children by providing e-learning kits. Also Navneet Guides have been provided to more than five hundred local students.

Project Benefits - 1000-1500 people with various skills will be temporarily employed during the construction phase of the project. The project promoters are trying to provide employment on contracts to as many locals as possible from Karjat taluka of Raigad district.

This proposed project will raise the social and economic standard of living here. It is the cheapest, cleanest energy storage project. Such projects are very much needed not only in Maharashtra but also in the country. The project will be the largest of its kind in the country once operational. We all will be proud of him. All of us will be involved in this project.

After completion of the presentation, the organizer, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, told the audience that the project promoters have detailed the Environmental Management Plans (EMP) planned for pollution control during the construction phase of the project and after its completion.

He appealed to the audience to raise environmental suggestions, criticisms, and objections regarding the proposed project. First name and place of residence / village should be mentioned while registering suggestions, objections.

All suggestions and objections will be recorded. Similarly, those who want to submit written statement should submit it. The project promoters are instructed to reply in writing, and it will be submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting. However, one should come and submit a written statement.

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. Pandharinath Ganpat Aagaj, Ex – Sarpanch, At Post – Mandavane, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad :-

I have been doing social work at various levels in many places. We have an Organization in this Tata company, where I also work as President. I have watched this project closely from the beginning. The farmers, all the people in the area, we farmers get twice crop production from this taluka. We get benefit from it. But as the irrigation work is going on, the agriculture production is lost in some areas since last ten years. Now it is back to normal. It is my personal opinion that similar benefits should get from this project also. The presentation shows that the 1,000 MW project will be the largest in the country once operational. This is a matter of pride and this Karjat Taluka will get credit for it.

(Suggestion) - Company should carry the same agriculture and environment management in the future as well. This is my personal opinion. No one's agriculture should be damaged. Solid waste, wastewater from the project should be well treated scientifically by the company. We fully extend our co-operation for the company from this area.

(Answer) - Project Proponent, while replying, stated that concerned participant mentioned and acknowledged the contribution that Tata Power has made to the area over the last hundred years. The solid waste and sewage generated in this project will be treated and disposed of as per the directives issued by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

2) Shri Vilas Madhukar Modak, Ex – Sarpanch, Residence-Savale Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad :-

(Question) - Will this project cause water pollution? If so, what measures will be initiated by the company to bring it under control. Information should be given.

(Answer) - Project Proponent said that since this is a hydro-electric project, there will be no water pollution from the project. All measures will be taken to prevent the pollution of the water bodies here due to the sewage generated during the construction phase, movement of large vehicles and traffic.

3) **Shri Sunil Barshi, Residence – Humgaon, District – Raigad :-**

(Question) - Will there be noise pollution during the project construction phase? What measures will be adopted to curb it?

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that while noise pollution may occur to a small extent, it can also be remedied. Control blasting will be done in the project to avoid noise pollution. Also muffling will be done as per requirement.

So, the noise pollution will remain within the prescribed limits. It is only a part of the project. Similarly, various departments of Central and State Governments prescribes these terms and conditions while approving projects and Project Proponents are bound to follow them.

4) **Shri Vilas Dhondu Navale, Residence – Tapkirwadi, District – Raigad :-**

(Question) - We are staying just 50 meters away from the embankment/bandhara. The report mentions that blasting will be carried out while developing the project. It will damage our homes and change the flow of water to our bores. As we have observed that while installing the HP pipeline at the distance of 10 km from our house, the utensils in our house were falling. We have experienced this. Hence the damage which will be caused should be explained?

Another issue is of agriculture. Our farm is just 50 meters away from this project. After storing water in Bandhara, there is a possibility of permanent drainage of water in our fields. Our fields are likely to become barren due to excess water.

Hence, company should give a written assurance to the residents of Tapkeerwadi for future compensation. Similarly, the measures to be taken in this regard should be informed in the meeting.

However, the company should give a written assurance to the residents of Tapkeerwadi for future compensation. Similarly, the measures to be taken in this regard should be informed in the meeting.

(Answer) - Project Proponent replied that it was already mentioned in the meeting that control blasting will be carried while developing the project. Accordingly, it is our responsibility to take care that no houses around will be damaged. Blasting will be done accordingly. Similarly, it is our responsibility to take care that water does not go to your fields.

(Question) - Some participants here collectively raised the question of how the company will provide a guarantee in this regard.

(Suggestion) - At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all that the entire meeting is being video recorded and the minutes of the meeting include all the questions and all the answers given by the company officials. Minutes of meeting contains the answer given for each question. Similarly, a copy of the minutes can be made available to the local people.

(Question)- Here, Shri Vilas Dhondu Navale remarked that Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee has cleared his position in this regard. But in the future, if houses are damaged, agriculture becomes barren, the flow of boring water is changed, what measures will be taken in future by the Project Proponent?

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that Tata Power would remain responsible.

(Question)- Shri Navale asked what would be the exact responsibility. Will you give a written assurance to the villagers regarding the compensation?

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that just now Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the discussions in the meeting was being recorded. So it is a proof.

5) Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, Residence – Bhivpuri Camp, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad - Group Gram Panchayat Area – Resident – Local – Mobile no. 9922996701 – email id - mangesh776@gmail.com

(Views / Queries) - He started reading the analytical report. He said that this is answer to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is –

He said that the report prepared by Project Proponent for the 1,000 MW project is based on a 1,250 MW of a company from Hyderabad which is competitor of this company. He said that the errors in the report have been rectified and alternative solutions have been suggested.

Our objective is to execute the project, not oppose the project. Alternative solutions to errors in the EIA report are provided. He said his colleagues would read the report.

6) Shri Sanjay Prabhakar Raundhal, Group Gram Panchayat, Bhivpuri, At Post – Karalewadi –

(Question) - He said that verification report prepared by them for villagers of local Group Gram Panchayat-Bhivpuri, Karjat, Raigad of EIA report is reading to know all villagers. He said that the information about the height, depth, length of the dam seems incomplete, as it is not clearly stated. Length, height, width is required to measure the density of water.

When he was reading their report, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested him to raise any specific questions.

(Suggestion) - Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that the company management is bound to answer the questions. Also the study report done by you should be submitted, it will be submitted to the Central Government along with the minutes of the meeting.

(Question)- Here, Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, residing – Bhivpuri Camp, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Group Gram Panchayat Area asked whether the depth of 107.0 meters mentioned is right?

(Answer) - Project Proponent replied that their written suggestions / objections would be answered in writing as per the directives of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that if questions are asked orally in the meeting, they should be answered orally.

Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, Resident – Shivpuri Camp, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad said here that as per the available report made by the company, we are questioning only those discrepancies which we have found, as the villagers here have questions to know the future environmental impact of the proposed project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that this Committee does not take any decision. It is constituted to note the suggestions/objections as raised by the participants regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. Also, Project Proponent is bound to give answers to the participants to the questions raised by them.

Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, Resident – Bhivpuri Camp, remarked that as explanation of 107-meter depth was not given by the Project Officer, it should be noted.

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that the dam, which is a lower reservoir, has a head level height of 107 meters above sea level. The height of the dam varies from 20 – 28 meters from place to place. Maximum height is around 28 meters.

Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, residing – Bhivpuri Camp, raised an objection here that the width of the dam is not given in the report. The width and height of the dam are essential. Project Officer has given 335 dam head level. If the reservoir will hold 462.0 crores of water, if the depth is 107 meters then 352 feet, we need to take borewell up to 30 feet.

(Question)- This should be noted that there will have an effect on our bore wells and agriculture. Our bore wells will stop. But let us explain how the depth of 107 meters is calculated?

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that the height of 107 meters is the height of the top/head of the dam above sea level. The water level is not that high. The maximum water level is 28 meters. The difference between the bottom of the dam and the top/head of the dam should be considered and the water level is the same.

When Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, resident – Bhivpuri Camp, started giving information about the another project, he was informed to raise the issues only about the present project for which public hearing is in process.

(Suggestion)- Chairman of the Committee suggested to raise the suggestions and objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. At that time Mr. Mangesh Shitole opined that if there is a height of 107 meters and a depth of 351 feet, the project will affect the water sources, agriculture and other factors here. It is necessary to get the detailed information.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here remarked that the height of 28 meters has been mentioned, it will be noted in the minutes that Project Proponent cannot increase the height beyond it. All the mandatory government procedures have to be followed by the Project Proponent if they desire to increase the height.

7) Shri Sunil Barshi, Residence – Humgaon, District -Raigad :-

(Question)- Which health facilities will be provided by Tata Company in the project area?

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that the project is in operation here for a hundred years and since then our medical facilities have been available to the local people. The medical facilities will continue as it is.

8) Shri Prasad Thorve, Residence – Karalewadi, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad;-

We have been working in Tata for the last 25 years. Tata Power has given job opportunities to the local people here for 100 years. Employment generation will also happen in new project.

(Question)- However, my question is that the drinking water scheme in the area of many gram panchayats in Karjat taluka is depending on the water that is going to the river from the proposed Off-stream Open Loop Pumped Storage project. However, detailed information should be given as to whether this project will have any effect on the water availability of the Gram Panchayat Jal Yojana.

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that the water flowing into the river today will not be affected by the project. Not even a single drop of water will be lost.

9) Shri Santosh Shivaji Ghadge, Residence – Tapkirwadi, Bhivpuri Gram Panchayat Villagers -

(Question)- During the development of this project, blasting, mining will result noise pollution, there will be environmental impact. Due to cutting of trees/ deforestation, monkeys, wild pigs and other animals come to the village from the forest and destroy the standing crops and fruits. We, villagers are already suffering due to destruction of wild animals. What is future plan of the company in this regard.

Company will keep an ambulance for local people. But the impact of blasting on the environment for four years, due to these four years of work, the local people will develop chronic diseases. Hence, Tata company's planning in this regard should be explained.

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that it is already been informed that control blasting will be carried out in the project. So, the noise pollution will remain within the prescribed standards. Also, the medical facilities that have been made available for the past hundred years will continue for the local people.

(Question)- At that time, some local people collectively stated that due to the activities of the company, wild animals are coming to the villages and destroying the crops and fruits. Wild animals are also coming into the factory of Project Proponent and causing damage.

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that control blasting will be carried in the project. He further said that the company have prepared a Bio-Diversity Conservation Plan for wild animals and financial provisions have been made for it.

10) Shri Bajirao Dalvi, Dy. Chief, Shivsena Taluka- Karjat, District – Raigad:-

(Question)- Shri Bajirao Dalvi mentioned that - Shri Santosh Ghadge want to say that I want to say that the project will lead to deforestation. So the monkeys and other animals in the forest will leave the forest and come to the village and they are going to damage the village, what measures are planned by the Project Proponent?

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that a fund of Rs. 68 crore has been ear-marked for the Bio-Diversity Conservation Plan. Its budget has been prepared. Some measures will be taken from it.

11) Shri R. K. Kolambe, Residence – Narsapur Gram Panchayat, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad :-

(Question)- Is there going to be any reduction in the quantity of water we get? This year, 25% of supply is reduced in our village. All the villagers are saying that since Tata gave the letter, 25% less water is released. I have submitted written suggestions/objections also.

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that any suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project can be recorded in writing.

Now about the water. There will be no reduction in your water supply due to this project. Whatever water supply is available now, will be available even after the commissioning of the project.

12) Shri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist, Telangana State:-

(Suggestions)- My best wishes to all villagers and management. I congratulate the management for choosing the process of off-stream open loss pumped storage project (PSP). In India, ten types of power plants have been set up – coal, tidal etc. In India, unemployment is a major polluter.

In this project, whatever jobs are provided, it should be extended to local people only. For plantation, instead of normal plants, please plant medicinal valued plants and fruit bearing plants. It will be useful to local people. Further requested to form a Co-ordination Committee for expenditure of CSR budget with inclusion of local Pollution Control Board officer, officers from management side, local gram

panchayat office. It will be useful for the Demand Oriented Work. Great credibility will be gained by the management.

Your consultant has already collected water, air and land samples. It is very useful. If possible, I further suggest to collect the health status of the people. Also collect crop pattern and ground water availability. It will be useful in future to take a parameter.

Finally, I am congratulating management and also consultant. I recommend to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India to give unconditional permission to this industry.

I am 57 year old Environmentalist and I support the project not to disturb the villages. **(Answer)-** Project Proponent told Shri Reddy that the suggestions raised by him will definitely be considered.

13) Shri Sanjay Prabhakar Raundhal, Group Gram Panchayat, Bhivpuri, At Post – Karalewadi :-

(Question)- Will the job creation through this project be temporary or permanent?

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that both types of employment are created. When a project is in the construction phase, it definitely requires more manpower. When the project is operational, employment generation is minimal.

14) Shri Vishal Dilip Patil, At Post – Malewadi, Chairman, Karjat Taluka Sambhaji Bridage -

(Question)- If the 1000 MW project is going to operate here, whether the local people will be made available the electricity?

(Answer)- We need a license to supply electricity. We haven't received it yet. So we cannot supply electricity.

15) Shri Nanda Balkrishna Patil, Residence – Bhalivadi, Taluka – Karjat, District-Raigad:-

(Question)- The meeting that is going on in our area today, the purpose of the meeting is that the project brought by the company, the shortcoming of the project is that this project should solve the water problem of the farmers.

Second question, if Tata's school in Bhivpuri camp here is reopened, it will be a good thing.

Similarly, if the hospital issue is resolved, it will be good.

Local people believe that Jamshetji Tata means Satyanarayana God.

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that the local people will not face any problem regarding the availability of water. As water is available now, water will continue to be available in the future.

16) Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, Residence – Bhivpuri Camp, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad: -

(Question)- He said that the company says that the project requires 117.41 hectares. Out of it, 93.82 hectares is owned by the company. Out of which 344.0 hectares of land will be purchased privately. This means 50.0 acres of forest land. 234.50 acres of land is owned by the company, while 8.50 is privately owned. So the question is that 23.6 hectares of land is required in the proposal. If Tata owns 93.82 hectares of land, why the need for forest land?

Maharashtra Government has declared the project area as ESZ – Ecological Sensitive Zone, if forest land is given to the said project, then whether the protected flora and fauna will not affect?

(Suggestion)- Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the matter of forest area is under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. It means if one acre of forest land is taken, the Government has to give two acres of land. Another thing, the concerned person has to pay money for green belt development. Apart from that, twice land has to be given near the forest area.

Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole objected that the forest land is going to be bought for 4.91 crores. At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the forest land is assessed, and he has to pay double the amount of land he acquired.

Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole objected that there will be revenue loss to the government. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee promised to take a written guarantee in this regard.

17) Shri Nagesh Vishnu Barshi, Residence – Humgaon, District – Raigad :-

(Question)- The dispensary which is made available by the company is opened for a certain period. (9.0 am to 11.0 am). So will it remain open 24 hours for the villagers and will there be further improvements?

(Answer)- Project Proponent promised to take a positive decision.

18) **Shri Shreeram Vasant Thombare, Ex Sarpanch, Residence – Humgaon, District – Raigad -**

(Objection)- People from 15-20 Gram Panchayat areas have come here. Please make available mike.

(Answer)- Mike was made available.

19) **Shri Sunil Barshi, Residence – Humgaon, District – Raigad:-**

(Question)- How many locations of water, air, soil, noise are monitored during the survey for Environmental Impact Assessment Report?

(Answer)- Project Proponent informed that in the Presentation, all the details of how many places water, soil, sound were monitored.

20) **Sou. Alka Badole, Residence – Bhivpuri, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad: –**

I have been living in the village of Bhivpuri for the past ten years. I was at home as a housewife. I worked in an organization for 3-4 years. Later I got an offer from Anoka Dhaga. My tailoring course was already completed before joining Anokha Dhaaga. So I started working encouraging the women there. I could earn my living. Women should be independent and stand on their own feet.

I work in CSR activities of the company, there embroidery and other activities are taught. Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested raising questions. If there is any environmental issue it should be raised.

(Suggestion)- She said that in the new project, as men will be given job opportunities, women should also be given job opportunities.

(Answer)- Project Proponent assured that we will try to expand the scope of Anokha Dhaaga initiative.

21) **Dr. Satish Pande, Ella Foundation: -**

(Suggestions/Views)- We have been working in the field of the environment for the last 40 years. We are working with villagers. I have been working with Tata Power for the last 30 years. In the meeting, questions were asked about the nuisance of wild boars and the loss of farmers. Tata company had advised us that what is the

bio-diversity of this area, so further conservation plans will be implemented accordingly.

For the past thirty years, detailed information about the birds, animals, plants, seeds available here, amphibians, reptiles has been published. There are very few companies in India that have taken a scientific record like Tata Power.

However, it is necessary to include this matter in the minutes of public hearing on environment. It was objected here that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report does not document of reptiles – snakes.

So all the books about snakes are available. So instead of just documenting it, it is important to see why wild boars come, how many are there, and what are the solutions to bear the nuisance of wild boars. I myself is Hon. Wild Life Warden from Pune.

For this, if Joint Forest Management Committees are constituted, and what causes wild boars to come, I will request Tata Power to develop such a green belt that wild boars will not come. These types of solutions are available.

Another thing – green power is important. My personal opinion is that there is no water pollution here. The water used in the project is being recycled for green power.

We run a clinic for villagers and also run a Wildlife Hospital for wild animals. My personal opinion is that green power is a very beautiful project and let us try to support this project as much as possible.

Secondly, this project is of national interest. This project should be looked positively and Tata Power solved the local issues with the same sensitivity, a bio-diversity document is ready for the project. There is no error in the report.

22) Shri Arun Narayan Bhoir, Ex Sarpanch, Mandavane, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad :-

Today, I feel lucky that Ratan Tata has built such a good project in our area. Therefore, job opportunities will be available here.

(Question)- But I am asking a question before the representative of Collector-Raigad that the company has a hundred years old Board, the work done here has been done by the local people. Hon. Ratan Tata gave fifteen thousand crore rupees for this country during the Corona period. The work is done by our local people.

Also, there are 1,500 workers in the project, who have not been paid anything by the company.

There was a Consumer Centre of Tata Company. There was a school here, it was closed. And the clinic is open only for one hour or only for two days. The needs of local people are closed. If jobs are available, the company should give justice to our 1,500 workers.

23) Shri Atul Vinayak Somne, Residence – Karalewadi, District – Raigad :-

(Question)- Project Proponent has not given us a satisfactory reply. Adjacent to the company boundary are the lands of the villagers. We have no objection to the company implementing any project. But if our lands become barren due to project water, what will we grow?

Reply regarding compensation should be given in writing first, only then the process of setting up the company should be started.

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that here is the guarantee that your land will not face any kind of threat, we will take care of it. Project water will not affect your land.

24) Shri Mangesh Ramchandra Shitole, Bhivpuri Camp:-

(Objection)- Lower reservoir will permanently shut down the groundwater sources here. The result is the historic lake in our village Bhivpuri, 600 meters from Bhivpuri. It is not mentioned in the report.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants that they can also give their suggestions/objections in written form. It is mandatory for the project promoters to give their written reply.

(Answer)- Reply to the objection raised is enclosed.

25) Shri Namdev Laxman Gaikwad, Ex. Sarpanch, Mandavane, Taluka – Kariat, District – Raigad:-

(Objection)- We are thankful to Tata Company, as they have done a lot of activities for us. Dhankarwada is a village adjacent to the project. There is no road for that village. A person who died in the village yesterday, and local people have to lift the dead body from the boundary wall.

26) Shri. Jitendra Ghadge, Residence – Tapkirwadi, Bhivpuri Grampanchayat, District: Raigad: -

(Suggestion)- There was a death yesterday, the people requested the company a lot to open the gate for taking the dead body to the crematorium. The company did not listen to them, did not provide any kind of help and finally they had to lift the dead body from the compound wall. Tata company should take care that such situation does not happen in future.

(Answer)- Project Proponent while replying to Shri Gaikwad and Shri Gadge said that watching that video made me cry. It is definitely not good. Local people should contact company at such times.

(Suggestion)- Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee suggested Shri Gadge that after completion of Model Code of Conduct, you can come and meet at Collectorate, Alibag, Raigad. If the company does not take further action in this regard, immediate action will be taken regarding the alternative road. If there is a forest area, further decision will be taken regarding it.

27) Shri Dinesh Thorve, Residence - Karalewadi village, Dist. Raigad :-

(Question)- All the farming families live next to the company. Since there is complete agriculture land outside the compound, if the farmer desires to dig a farm or a well in the field, can the government issue a no-objection certificate?

Second Question – There are many tribal families in the project area. Their livelihood is by selling fruits and forest fruits. So can the company build a road in the forest for them?

(Suggestion)- Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed here that this is not Tata's issue. For those who are forest dwellers, the government reserves the area. If the area is up to one hectare, as per 3.2 the District Forest Officer may allow the area to be used by the forest dwellers

If so, written application should be submitted to Collector, Raigad. So the road for their passage and the place for livelihood of the primitive tribes can be decided.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that it is a policy decision of the government that if a well is to be dug, permission from the Geological Department should be obtained. The office is at Alibag. The question may not occur in respect of Shet Tale – Farm Lake. But the subject of the well may come up. Because for Shet Tale-Farm Lake, we have to dig one feet and fill three feet.

Structural audit for blasting while drilling a well has to be considered. A meeting can be arranged for the same.

28) **Shri Nagesh Vishnu Barshi, Residence – Humgaon, District – Raigad:-**

(Question)- My question is how many workers will be required during the project and whether they will get permanent employment or not.

(Answer)- Project Proponent informed that more labour is needed during the construction phase of the project. At that time 1,000-1,500 workers may be required. The number decreases after the project is operational.

29) **Shri. Atul Vinayak Somne, Residence – Karalewadi, District – Raigad :-**

(Objection)- Shri Kale, Project Proponent, only speaks. After four years, at the end of the project, if the agriculture is damaged, are they going to pay compensation? Answer in written form is required.

30) **Shrimati Sitabai Sid, Residence – Dhangarwadi, Karalewadi, District – Raigad:-**

(Objection)- A woman complained that we have no road, no water. Where would we go with the children?

31) **Shri Atul Vinayak Somne, Residence – Karalewadi, District – Raigad :-**

(Question)- Company should state here whether the liability of Tata Power Company is only four years or permanent. It should be given in written form.

(Answer)- Project Proponent said it has been repeatedly told that there will be no impact on agricultural land in the area.

32) **Shri Nagesh Vishnu Barshi, Residence – Humgaon, District – Raigad :-**

(Question)- Whether workers will be hired either permanently or temporarily?

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that during the construction phase workers will be hired from various private contractors, after the completion of the project the required cadre of workers, i.e. they will be given employment contract directly or through private contractors according to their educational qualifications.

33) Shri Sunil Mesne, Sarpanch, Potal Gram Panchayat, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad:

(Question)- Tata Power is providing water to our agriculture. Also 1,000 MW project is going to be commissioned. Company should provide electricity to the people of the area. It is informed by the Project Proponent that they are not getting permission from the government. If they get permission to sell the electricity to Mumbai, then why is it not allowed to supply electricity to farmers, local people?

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that licenses are of three types. One is power generation, second is power transmission and third is power distribution.

The electricity that is available in the house is obtained from the electricity distribution company. Tata company is allowed to generate electricity, transmission, but not to distribute.

(Question)- Shri Sunil Mesne opined that if we suffer from this project, we must benefit from the end product.

(Answer)- Project Proponent said that if the people here give us permission, we will be happy to provide electricity to them. Shri Mesne assured that the local people will stand with the company in this regard.

34) Shri Hemant Laxman Navale, Residence -

(Question)- I request that there will be deforestation for the project. There are Ayurvedic trees in the forest. So what is the company planning for it?

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that there are forest department rules in this regard. They will be fully observed. It includes survey, submission of report and instructions of forest department will be followed.

35) Shri Santosh Shivaji Ghadge, Residence – Tapkirwadi, District – Raigad:-

(Question)- A lake will be created. But are you going to take permanent measures in case of any emergency? It needs to be recorded in the report.

(Answer)- Project Proponent gave an assurance in this regard. There are some provisions for that. He said that the water storage is only 4.50 million cubic meters. Half of that water will be stored in pits and half will be stored by dam walls. Even in case of emergency situation, it is mandatory arrangements for release of water have to be made.

36) Shri Atul Vinayak Somne, Residence – Karalewadi, District – Raigad :-

(Objection)- The responding Project Officer will be retired. But the company must keep the promises made. There is Tata Power in Bhivpuri Gram Panchayat and one person from each family from Bhivpuri is not in Tata Power. However, all promises are expected to be in writing. Because you have not given any satisfactory answer.

(Suggestion)- Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined those questions, suggestions, objections have been raised by many participants in the meeting and the same has been recorded. Local people can ask written queries, environmental objections on local office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board email id. Company is already directed to send written reply. It will be submitted along with the minutes of the meeting to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee further said that Convener has said at the beginning of the meeting that this committee does not take any decision, this committee has been formed only to record the suggestions and objections raised by the participants. The minutes of the meeting will be submitted to the Government of India, where the expert committee takes further decision.

37) Shri Shivaji Disle, Residence – Tapkirwadi, Bhivpuri Grampanchayat, District – Raigad -

(Objection)- Participants are requested to applaud if Tata Company is putting up such a big project in our area. All the people applauded. Shri Disley opined that he had come here to talk about the environment. Here everyone is asking the same question that who is going to take charge of tomorrow?

I am a farmer living next door to the company to enter here only after going through all the security systems. If our land is affected, how will we feed our family? Because we don't have jobs in Tata. However, in case of any damage, Tata should help permanently.

38) Shri Sunil Barshi, Residence – Humgaon, District – Raigad :-

(Question)- If blasting will take place here before the project starts, will any hazardous waste be released in the blasting, how will it be disposed of?

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that it was already mentioned in the meeting that control blasting will be done in the project. The waste coming out of it will be disposed of as per the directives of the Government.

39) Shri Mahesh Gade, Residence – Karalewadi, Bhivpuri Gram Panchayat, District – Raigad -

(Question)- How long will the company release water to the Page River after the project is operational?

(Answer)- Project Proponent said the project would not affect current water availability or flow.

Answering Mr. Gade's question, the project proponent said that no water will be released from this project. This project will not affect any water source, water availability.

Shri Gade alleged that there has been encroachment in the riverbed and the irrigation department and other government departments are not taking any action on it.

(Suggestion)- Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that written application should be submitted immediately after the meeting, it would be seen that immediate further action is taken regarding encroachment.

40) Shri Jitendra Ghadge, Residence – Tapkirwadi, Bhivpuri Grampanchayat, District – Raigad:-

(Question)- Dhangarwada is a locality next to Tata Company. What is the alternative route for them after the completion of this project? Because there is full agriculture during monsoon.

(Answer)- Project Proponent replied that a good road will be made available to the concerned settlements.

(Suggestion)- Some of the participants collectively demanded that Dhangarwada locality be given a permanent good road, later to be connected to the forest roads.

(Answer)- At that time, Project Proponent said that Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee has given an explanation on this issue.

Here some of the participants collectively demanded that the residents of Dhangarwada will be the most affected by the project, but their safety should be taken care of, it should be noted in the minutes.

(Suggestion)- Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that all suggestions and objections are being noted. It is also being advised to the participants that the proposed project is environmentally friendly. The suggestions,

objections can be submitted in written form to Collector Office, Alibag, Raigad / Local office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, Navi Mumbai in person or through email. It will be submitted to the Government of India along with the minutes of the meeting.

41) Shri Vikas Navale, Residence – Tapkirwadi, District – Raigad:-

(Objection)- Tata company has made an unforgivable mistake that there is Ahilyabai Holkar Lake, which is from the Pandava, Mahabharata period. It is not mentioned anywhere in the report. There is a record in the government gazette, why has it not been recorded? Because there are tourists from outside, if the traffic increases due to the project, tourists will not come.

(Answer)- Project Proponent assured that it would be noted in the revised EIA report.

(Suggestion)- Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that such a note is suggested to be included in the report. Similarly, the project promoters will be directed to take time to ensure that there will be no impact on the arrival of tourists.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that a copy of the minutes of the meeting will be made available to the Gram Panchayat Office.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the written suggestions, objections to MPCB should be made on the email id of the Sub Regional Office, Raigad-2, MPC, Raigad Bhavan, Navi Mumbai. Similarly, the minutes of the meeting will also be made available on the website of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

42) Shri Arun Narayan Bhoir, Ex Sarpanch, Mandavane, Taluka – Karjat, District – Raigad:-

(Suggestion)- I request that a training center was built in 1986 for local people. But no one has been given there till date. A hospital building is being constructed there now. Company requests that the Lok Human Rights Committee abide by the agreement it had with the company. Otherwise, our workers will leave no stone unturned in developing new projects.

Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to register environmental suggestions and objections regarding the proposed project. There was no response from the audience.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee stated that the meeting was being concluded. He appealed to the audience to submit any environmental suggestions, criticisms, objections regarding the proposed project through email or in writing to the office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, Navi Mumbai. It will be acknowledged, and the project promoters have been informed in advance that they will be directed to reply in writing.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all participants and on behalf of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the public hearing is conclude.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 11 nos. of written suggestions/objections as received.



(R. S. Kamat)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board
Raigad Bhavan,
Navi Mumbai



(Jayvant S. Hajare)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer, Raigad,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board
Raigad Bhavan,
Navi Mumbai



(Sandesh Shirke)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Raigad,
District – Raigad