DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 6-LANE (GREENFIELD) ACCESS CONTROLLED ECONOMIC CORRIDOR FROM SURAT (GUJARAT) TO CHENNAI (TAMILNADU) PASSING FROM AHMEDNAGAR-SOLAPUR-AKKALKOT SECTION MAHARASHTRA/KARNATAKA BORDER SECTION UNDER BHARATMALA PROJECT PASSING THROUGH DHARASHIV DISTRICT DEVELOPED BY PROJECT PROPONENT NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA, MAHARASHTRA –

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed Development of 6-Lane (Greenfield) Access Controlled Economic Corridor from Surat (Gujarat) to Chennai (Tamilnadu) passing from Ahmednagar-Solapur-Akkalkot Section Maharashtra/Karnatakka Border Section Under Bharatmala Project passing through Dharashiv District to be developed by Project Proponent National Highway Authority of India, Maharashtra was conducted on Wednesday, 18th January, 2024 at. District Collector Office, Dharashiv (Previously called as Osmanabad) , Maharashtra on 11:30 a.m.

Shri Parmeshwar V. Kamble, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Latur and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Mahendrakumar Kamble , Additional District Magistrate, Dharashiv and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri. Sujit Dholam, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, 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 was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s National Highway Authority of India, Maharashtra to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for their proposed Development of 6-Lane (Greenfield) Access Controlled Economic Corridor from Surat (Gujarat) to Chennai (Tamilnadu) passing from Ahmednagar-Solapur-Akkalkot Section Maharashtra/Karnatakka Border Section Under Bharatmala Project passing through Dharashiv District to be developed.

Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of proposed project falls under Category A which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

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

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 ToR on 17.05.2023.

After sanction from District Collector, Dharashiv to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Wednesday 18th January, 2024 at 11.30 a.m., 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. MPCB/JD(WPC)/ENV-PH/B 231102-FTS-0225 Dtd. 02.10.2023 as under:-

1) District Magistrate-Dharashiv or his representative not below the rank of an Additional District Magistrate — **Chairman**

2) Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai - Regional Officer – Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, **Member**

3) Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Latur **Convener**

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Latur in the Local Newspaper in Daily Lokmat, Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar for Marathi and in National Newspaper Times of India for English on 14th December, 2023. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

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, Dharashiv;
3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Dharashiv;
4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Dharasiv;
5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Paranda / Tuljapur, Taluka – Paranda / Tuljapur, District – Dharashiv;
6) **Taluka – Paranda, District – Dharashiv, Gram Panchayat Offices –** Mouje Chinchpur (Bk), Pandharewadi, Chinchpur (Kh), Undegaon, Ratnapur, Malkapur, Aanala, Rohkal, Sakat (BK), Kumbhefal, Jakhepimpri, Arangaon, Takli, Rajuri, Wadi Rajuri, Ghargaon, Jawala, Kadalgaon, Shirsav, Hingangaon (Bk) etc.
7) **Taluka – Tuljapur, District – Dharashiv-**
Gram Panchayat Offices – Mouje Khuntewadi, Kati, Dahiwadi, Savargaon, Sangvikati, Suratgaon, Pimpala (Kh), Pimpala (BK), Devkuruli, Dhotri, Katgaon etc.

8) Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;

9) Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st,2nd,3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;

10) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Paryavan Bhavan, Plot No.A-4/1, MIDC Chikalthana, Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Previously called Aurangabad)

11) Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Latur District Udyog Samuha Building, Plot No. P-10, MIDC Latur – 413 512)

12) Web site of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai;

Convener informed that ------- suggestion / objection has been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Latur regarding the proposed project.

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

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

requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that there is a public hearing on environmental issues. He directed Environmental Consultant of the project promoters to make a presentation on the proposed project.

Environmental Consultant of the project welcomed all the participants and gave information about the project through a presentation. He said that Project Proponent M/s National Highway Authority of India, Maharashtra planned to develop proposed Development of 6-Lane (Greenfield) Access Controlled Economic Corridor from Surat (Gujarat) to Chennai (Tamilnadu) passing from Ahmednagar-Solapur-Akkalkot Section Maharashtra/Karnatakka Border Section Under Bharatmala Project passing through Dharashiv District. Due to this project Villages in Dharashiv district will be affected by this project. This project goes from Dharashiv district to Solapur district. The said project is passing through the forest area.

He said that the construction period of the said project is about three years and the total cost of the project is approximately Rs 7219.49 crores. All environmental guidelines passed by the Government of India will be followed during the project construction phase.

After the presentation, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee told the participants that Project Proponent has given detailed information about the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) planned for pollution control during the construction phase of the project and after its completion. However, participants are advised to raise only environmental questions about the proposed project.

He informed all participants that one should not think about the past but think about the future. Subjects other than environment, local subjects should not be raised here, there is a separate forum for that, so it will not be assumed that the question comes.

Your suggestions and objections will be recorded and included in the minutes of the meeting.

He appealed to the participants to raise environmental suggestions 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 also submit it

Project Proponent is directed 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. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal

What is the main topic of the meeting should be well explained here. What should be the objections of the citizens, so that the citizens should co-operate for the road development. Because the villagers who have come here do not know what "Environment" is. Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Latur has published public notice of the meeting thirty days in advance. People here ask what is environment, what questions to ask about it. Also here is M/s. Aarvee Associates, an Environmental Consultant of the project. Are they representatives of NHAI? Here is the government, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is Convener of the meeting. Citizens of the area have arrived here.

Whereas, it is observed that during the public hearing, it is usually citizen versus a company. It is not known who is against whom here. This should be clarified. Any doubts we may have can be asked.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing remarked that No one is against anyone here. This is the harmony of the Government with the people. This public hearing is an environmental public hearing.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public about the possible effects of the proposed project on the soil, water, air and the various measures planned by the Project Proponent. This is an open discussion. It provides an open platform to the public.

He further said that Convener of the meeting already informed at the beginning that no decision is taken in this meeting, no project is recommended, no project is even rejected.

Environmental suggestions, objections and views raised in the meeting are noted and the minutes of the meeting are submitted to the Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry, Government of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee there takes further decision. Hence, your views, suggestions or objections are welcomed.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal further asked that M/s. Aarvee Associates, Architects Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd. an Environmental Consultant of the project has made available the Executive Summary Report. Whether the said report a standardized report?

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee explained that as per the Notification of Environment Impact Assessment, 20006 of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, it is mandatory for certain projects to obtain Environment Clearance before executing the project. For this,

prior Environment Public Hearing is mandatory. Project Proponent have to obtain ToR (Terms of Reference) before preparation of draft Environment Impact Assessment Report. This EIA is draft report. The suggestions/objections as raised by the local people in the environment public hearing in respect of the proposed project in environmental angle have to be noted while preparing the revised EIA. which has to be submitted to Central Government. An Expert Committee after detailed study takes further decision.

Hence, active participation of local people in public hearing is definitely necessary. Because the environmental suggestions. objections raised by the local people, Project Proponent can include it in the EIA report.

Since it is mandatory to prepare the said Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) from the NABET approved organization of the Central Government, Project Proponent National High Way Authority of India has prepared the said EIA report from the NABET approved organization M/s. Aarvee Associates, Architects Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal raised objection that if the report itself is wrong, will the public hearing be conducted again after amending the report?

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that Convener already informed at the beginning of the meeting that the environmental suggestions and objections raised by the participants will be recorded and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting will be prepared in Marathi and in English. Minutes of the meeting along with written suggestions/objections and Revised EIA will be submitted after approval of Chairman of Environment Public Hearing Committee

through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi. An Expert Committee there takes further decision.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal asked whether the minutes of this meeting will be available to us.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the said minutes will be made available on the website.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal asked whether there would be discussions on each point/issue or whether answers will be given collectively. There are project victims.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that whatever issues you want to raise, you should raise.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal raised the objection that EIA report as prepared by the project's environmental consultant M/s. Aarvee Associates, Architects, Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd. is completely wrong. It has used many languages. So, holding Environmental Public hearing on wrong and misleading report is also totally wrong.

It would not be right to hold such a wrong hearing. I came here from the distance of 125 km. Many citizens could not reach here in time. Citizens should be asked whether to continue the public hearing or not.

The report uses the same term as philanthropy. So what is benefit of the people? While preparing this report, whether assistance of the villagers was taken, where samples were collected, where Panchnama was taken, whether soil samples were collected? Where it is collected? This report is written as an essay.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav to raise pointwise suggestions or objections. Then Environment Consultant will be asked to give clarification.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav – raised first objection that M/s. Aarvee Associates, Architects, Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd., an Environment Consultant of the Project Proponent has prepared the EIA report in inconsistent language. This report is prepared on completely wrong based incorrect data. These faulty reports have been sent to the affected gram panchayat offices.

Hence, the concerned Environment Consultant M/s. Aarvee Associates, Architects, Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd., has misled local people. Therefore. the Environmental consultancy should be penalized and permanently banned from preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the said Environmental Impact Assessment Report should be corrected and republished and then Environmental Public Hearing should be held again.

Chairman and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Environment Consultant to give answers.

Environmental Consultant said that this is Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and you can raise your objections on the technical points, so that we can amend/correct/modify it.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal raised objection that environment is a sensitive issue and a matter of daily life. Why the auditorium has so many windows, why so many tables in the hall is also a matter of environment. If you are going to do such a big project, the length of the project road and how many families will be affected should be shown on the display.

How appropriate is it to hold a public hearing and take the consent of the local people on the erroneous Environmental Impact Assessment report? It will also be discussed further where ever the report is wrong.

Also, an explanation should be given regarding the use of the term "for the interest of thee people" in the report. Because there is no mention of where the water and soil samples were collected with their participation, when they were collected and at what time they were taken. This report is given as the essay is written. Although this report has been done by NHAI Environment Consultant M/s. Aarvee Associates. Hon'ble Collector should cancel the report and public hearing should be held again after preparation of another environmental impact assessment report.

Environment Consultant while replying informed that due to the said project 882 persons are affected by the project in Paranda taluka and 243 are affected by the project in Tuljapur taluka.

Environmental Consultant further informed that water, air, soil, sound samples have been collected as per directives.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal objected that all the information in the report is wrong and as per my study 1.49 families per hectare will be affected here. He asked the villagers present in whose villages the staff and representatives of environmental consultants Aarvee Associates had come? All the villagers present unanimously said that no one had come. Hence, where this report was prepared, there is no mention of the local farmers being affected.

This is a false, misleading report. There are no environmental issues. This road is passing through two districts. If there is no harmony between farmers and environment, this public hearing has no meaning.

Environmental Consultant said that the issues you are raising will be answered.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee told Shri Jadhav that he should submit his suggestions, objections in written form, the written reply will be given by the Environmental Consultant. All the above suggestions, written answers will be submitted to Government along with the minutes of the meeting. But the demand to cancel the public hearing cannot be accepted

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal moved that my demand to cancel this public hearing should be taken up in the minutes of the meeting. Our demand is that this public hearing should be cancelled. We demand that this public hearing should be fair.

He asked the present farmers whether the demand to cancel the meeting is acceptable. All the present farmers, villagers unanimously raised their hands to demand that this public hearing meeting is not acceptable. Chairman of the meeting said that it will be noted in the minutes that all the farmers demanded to cancel this meeting.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the sentiments expressed by Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal have been noted.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that since the said meeting is about environment, only environmental suggestions and objections should be recorded. Other local issues were also raised in the meeting and it has also been noted.

At that time, Shri Jadhav objected that human beings also come under the ambit of environment. We are all going to be affected.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that their sentiments were understood. You should give your suggestions, objections in written form. They will be answered in writing by the Project Proponent and the Environmental

Impact Assessment Report will be amended accordingly. Mainly all of us are here to revise the EIA report. At the beginning of the public hearing process, it was said that this is an open discussion.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal said here that I am raising suggestions, objections, they are social, some will raise personal suggestions/objections. Minutes of the said meeting should be made available to the villagers here. At that time, Member, Environment Hearing Committee replied in the affirmative. Chairman appealed to the participants that they should submit their suggestions and objections in writing.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav further objected if the wrong report is being made available about the road that is going to pass through our farm, forest, house, shall we not protest? All the language in the report is also very wrong.

They said they were going to put Udakale 1,82,000 - as it appeared in the third line from the bottom on the last page. So what is Udkale? (Page No. 27) – Shri Jadhav demanded that Aarvee Associates should be fined for making a false report by the Environmental Consultant. Also, Aarvee Associates should pay the travel expenses of our village people.

Many wrong words have been quoted in the report. Now there will be 36 green field highways. So I object to this wrong EIA report and the public hearing on it. Here, all the participants raised their hands and raised their objections. Shri Jadhav on page 26, third paragraph from the bottom, completely wrong language – this is not our Marathi. This is not the case in law. This is wrong.

At that time, Chairman expressed the opinion that the wrong things should be told. Shri Jadhav opined that this is not our Marathi, the words are wrong.

Environmental Consultant apologizes for wrong wording. Chairman of the Committee directed to correct all grammatical mistakes.

Shri Jadhav said that I belong to a farmer family and I do not intend to trouble anyone. The work intended by Government is expected by the environmental consultant to be done.

They should inform the public about the environment, for that the errors in the report should be removed. Shri Jadhav said that the Environmental Consultant told in the meeting that he had conducted a survey in 19 villages, 22 villages. But there is no mention of where the survey was conducted.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that reading the Executive summary report, it also shows many grammatical errors on every page. However, it is directed that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report provided should be revised and then re-made available to all notified government offices.

The main purpose of this public hearing is that the report should be such that the public can understand all the details, all the information about the proposed project. That is why all government reports are available in the respectiv state language. Accordingly, further action should be taken. We welcome translation.

2) Shri. Gorandage, Residence-Kati, Taluka – Tuljapur, District – Dharashiv – (Mobile No. 9622 18 8434)-

There are 19 (nineteen) villages in Tuljapur taluka, while eleven villages are written. So where are the eight villages?

Environment Consultant informed that there are Eleven villages at Tuljapur Taluka, he read the names of the villages. He said from Kutewadi to Tuljapur the names

are Kati, Dahivadi, Savargaon, Salika, Suratgaon, Pimpala BK, Pimpala Kh, Devkuli, Khuntewadi, Dhotri, Kati etc.

3) At that time the villagers of Khadki raised an objection that Khadki village has been excluded. The environmental consultant said that the road passes outside Khadki village.

4) He also objected that the residents of Kati village objected that the road passes through Kati village. All three of my borers and five thousand trees are affected.

Environmental Consultant further informed that a complete team was sent by the concerned offices for this. they have considered all aspects and approved the road design.

5) **Shri. Balaji Patil, Pimpalapur Khurd, Tuljapur Taluka, District – Dharashiv :-**

He objected that Committee should have been accompanied by the concerned officials of the Collector Office while acquiring the land. There was no one with them. Environmental consultant is giving wrong information, no one was with them. Also, a survey number may have twenty five farmers, their farming area may be different. But the same amount of compensation has been paid.

6) **Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal** demanded that Environment Clearance should not be sanctioned until the project victims are satisfied.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav showed the map of his own farm and explained the errors in it. He said that the combined 10 km map does not show a single tree, well which are in existence. If the environmental evidence is not in the map, it is of no use. Then how we can raise environmental issues in public hearings on environment? There are many discrepancies in the plan of other people like mine. However, it is requested that Environmental Clearance (EC) should not be granted until all are fulfilled.

At that time, the Environmental Consultant said that the Prant Officer's office has followed all the directives of the Government from time to time and compensation has been given to the affected farmers and local people.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that a separate meeting may be held with the concerned department for the issue of land acquisition

7) **Shri. Shrikant Haripant Kulkarni, Taluka - Tuljapur, District – Dharashiv**

There is an area, water comes from it, for that I made a drain. So, I could provide water to my farm. Due to this project road, the water will accumulate there and my land will be damaged due to excess water. The drain is not mentioned in the Environmental Consultant's report.

Second point - the proposed road is passing through my farm. I have bullock, tractor. How can we go other side of the road? Also, the road is 15 feet high, hence our farm will be affected due to sand, soil and debris while building the road.

At that time, Environmental Consultant replied that we will not even touch the drain that passes through the farm. We will not change the natural water flow. Bridges and culverts will be constructed if necessary. Also, at every 500 meters distance underpasses are provided to go to the other side. There are under passes at every 500 meters.

Similarly, if the 60 meter road is not made, construction materials will be dumped there. We will sprinkle water there.

Environmental Consultant said that the roads in the village are under passed.

Chairman of the Committee said that the natural flow cannot be altered.

Here, Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav remarked that

Our land in the Deccan Plateau receives only two months of water. At other times, all the agriculture lands are cultivated. After monsoon, water will not appear in 3 k.m. In such a situation, there will be a lot of water in his field, we will arrest the water and after the dam, the water will get stuck in his field, what should Mr. Srikant Kulkarni do at that time?

Environmental Consultant said that we have carried the survey in the area, only after that plan is prepared Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav said that the survey conducted has not been published anywhere and made available to local people.

Similarly, Environmental Consultant Aarvee Associates and the Project Promoter NHAI did not inquire about the difficulties of the local people while surveying the area. According to my study in Dharashiv district, 10,700 people will be directly affected.

Environmental Consultant said that this is a technical issue. We have provided in the tender that wherever people say we want water flow, we have put that provision in the tender.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal further demanded that if project is going to get Environmental Clearance (EC) as per this report, then we have asked for affidavit on every point. Project Promoter NHAI, Environmental Consultant Aarvee Associates, We require affidavits from Associates and contractors who will be hired in the future. It should be mentioned that they will not violate the directives of any farmer,

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal further said that now Project Proponent has made available road map of 20.0 kilometer. There are 150-200 year old trees here. Those trees are home to birds that have communicated with us for many generations. Here I allege that those trees are deliberately not shown in the map.

At that time, Environmental Consultant said that the trees that are going to be cut are shown in the appendix and twice number of trees that are going to be cut will be planted.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal suggested to tell the information about how many trees will be cut in the meeting.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that Shri Haripant Kulkarni, District-Dharashiv opined that the water which comes in the fields through

drains. after the construction of the road. flow of water will change. That's right. If the farming land is cultivated through the water of the drain and if there is a change in the water flow of the drain, then as answered in the meeting. where are the culverts to be installed? What is the plan? How many drains are there whose water is used for agriculture purposes. If the culverts are planned. whether the culverts will be constructed at Shri Haripant Kulkarni's farm.

Member. Environment Public Hearing Committee asked that which department of Project Promoter prepared the information about how many places culverts will be installed in Dharashiv district. how many drains of farmers are going to be saved and in which government notified offices it was made available? It should be presented here.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee suggested that if the information is not available now. it should be made available to the local people and the Environmental Open Public Hearing Committee. The said information will be submitted to the Government of India along with the minutes of the meeting.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal raised objection that the location of the drain is recorded in the Land Records Department, it is recorded for years. it is not with the Environmental Consultant, it is a serious matter. Chairman. Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Environmental Consultant whether there is a list of how many places in Dharashiv district will be culverted for farmers' agriculture? If not. it should be made available so that it can be submitted to the Government of India along with the minutes of the meeting.

Environment Consultant said that there are total 241 drains in Dharashiv district. According to the demand of the local people. where culverts are going to be installed. they should be installed only once. This will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Environmental consultant said that culverts will be installed.

8) **Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal** again asked Project Consultant to inform how many trees will be affected?

At that time. Chairman. Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav. At. Rohkal has asked the right question. On one side it is said to plant trees. save the trees, on the other side trees have to be cut for the project,

compensation has to be paid for it. Hence , the village wise affected trees should be informed.

Environmental Consultant said that trees from five years ago have been planned here and 3,000 (three thousand) trees have to be cut in Dharashiv district.

Here Mr. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, asked the Environment Consultant to read out the information on trees in the Marathi Executive Summary Report prepared.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At Rohkal opined that the names of the trees which were written in the report are also wrong. At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the Environmental Consultant had given the scientific/botanical names. Chairman of the Committee gave orders to the Environmental Consultant to give indigenous names in the report in front of each tree.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal , while objecting again said that though there are naturally growing trees in our area, they have been cultivated by us. So project promoter need to consider trees for more than one month.

At that time, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that the project promoters will have to follow the government guidelines while cutting the trees, so the government guidelines regarding how old the trees should be will be followed. Chairman said that I myself and the company and the locals can't do anything about it. After the discussions, Chairman suggested that the trees which ae more than five years old should be assumed. At that time Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal raised an objection that this is incorrect.

At that time, Chairman of the Committee suggested that we should send a written statement in this regard, the government will take further decision regarding it.

9) **Shri. Shrikant Haripant Kulkarni, Taluka – Paranda, District – Dharashiv** while asking the information remarked that we cannot understand English. Hence, whether we can submit our objections in writing and what is the time limit?

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that in the meeting everyone is given an opportunity to file environmental suggestions and objections about the proposed project. Similarly, in this public hearing, participants are also allowed to submit their written suggestions/objections. Also Written suggestions/objections may be submitted to office of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Latur and at Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sambhajinagar even after the meeting.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the participants were informed at the beginning of the meeting that the Committee does not approve, reject or recommend any project. It has been constituted to record the environmental suggestions/objections raised by the local people about the proposed project and the suggestions and objections raised in the meeting are recorded in the minutes of the meeting and submitted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. The expert committee there takes further decision about the project.

10) Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal read the first point for giving explanation. Table No. Point No. 2- <u>Engineering Features of the Proposed Project:-</u>

It does not show that the study has been done by inspecting the actual place. There does not appear to be any actual reporting to solve the problems by consulting the local people. It is also seen that minor bridge, RoR, RoB and others are written in a fictional way. Or in this regard, it does not appear that any kind of suggestions, objections, notifications/suggestions of the project have been taken in the village wise panchanama, gram panchayat office.

<u>2.3 Traffic Analysis –</u>

In this regard, no scientific evidence is provided for the forecast of traffic 2025-2055. If attached, gram panchayat offices should make it available to all farmers.

2.4 Construction Period -

The construction period of the said project is three years. The period may increase. In this regard, the planning regarding the provision and further extended construction period has not been shown here. Because farmers and citizens will have to bear the burden of increased construction. If the construction period is increased, compensation should be given for the future disturbance and environmental damage to the farmers and common citizens due to the water level near the farm, road traffic. Planning in this regard and increased compensation should be mentioned.

2.5 Cost of the Project -

The approximate cost of the project is Rs 7,219.48 crores. Agricultural land, construction costs, various facilities costs (amenities) have not been shown here. Expenditure in each gram panchayat area should be paid in that gram panchayat office.

3. Alternative Analysis –

It has been reported that the project will reduce the carbon footprint of the project. The said analysis is hypothetical as the report does not mention the settlement within 200 meters of the proposed road. At that time, most of the participants in the meeting, who live 200 meters away, raised their hands.

Also, there is no mention of the large lakes, urban settlements adjacent to/near the proposed Green Field Highway. There is no mention of compensation or provisions in this regard.

4) The said project has been entrusted to Environmental Laboratory Vision Laboratories, Hyderabad for three months only survey from April, 2023 to June, 2023.

This is very wrong. At least one year should be studied. The climate here changes every month. We have an additional season here – that is Non-Seasonal rain.

At that time, Environmental Consultant indicated that the said report was prepared as per EIA Notification, 2006. The study has been done as per directives.

Shri. Maharudra Vishnu Jadhav, At. Rohkal filed an objection that while surveying 10 km of area. no village-wise representative from the periphery is seen. The circumference does not seem to have been specially studied. 10 km from the report. An exaggerated image of the periphery is shown. Environmental Consultant asserted that the spot is selected during the survey as per the directives in the EIA notification. The site and study is done accordingly.

Chairman, Public Hearing Committee on Environment suggested to consider the points raised by Mr. Maruti Vishnu Jadhav and others.

11) Shri .Adinath Gajendra Takmoge, Residence – Devkurli, Taluka – Tuljapur, District – Dharashiv –

I am Project Affected Person (PAP)/farmer. This highway has passed through my farm and my water well is also affected. The big road that is going to pass, there will be a big bridge and can my well will be saved?

Environmental Consultant said that if there is a well coming under the bridge, it can definitely be saved.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested here that wherever the source of water is, it must be saved.

When some participants raised questions about their vineyards and land acquisition, they were told that land acquisition was a different matter.

12) Shri. Bharat Bhillare At. Chinchpur (Bu), Taluka – Paranda, District – Dharashiv -

He suggested that you go to villages in Paranda taluka and give information about how the road is going. Also, public awareness should be created about water supply and water drainage, similarly, how the road runs.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that this is a welcome suggestion.

At that time, Environmental Consultant said that the next decision will be taken after taking everything into confidence.

13) Satish Baburao Shelke, At. Sangvikati , Taluka – Tuljapur, District – Dharashiv – 9323 13 0096 -

Our area is in Suratgaon. Our gat number is shown and six acres area is affected. But nobody came to count our agriculture fields.

Environmental Consultant said that the counting is yet to be done.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that valuable suggestions have been given by the participants and at the beginning of the meeting, it has been informed that this public hearing is organized only to record your thoughts, suggestions and objections and no decision is taken here. He thanked all the participants and directed Convener to take further action.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the suggestions, objections as raised by the participants during the meeting have been noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Minutes will be prepared in Marathi and in English and it will submitted along with Video recording of the said meeting as well as videotape, written suggestions objections as received, revised environmental assessment report of the project promoters to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi with the approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. An expert committee there will take further decision regardiug the same.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Project Officers, Journalists, NGOs working in the field of Environment, Representatives of the Channel, Police Administration and people who were present and on behalf of Chairman of the Committee, declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed 39 herewith written suggestions/objections as received.

Sub-Regional Office M.P.C. Board – LATUR

(Parmeshwar V. Kamble)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Latur

(Sujit Dholam)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Chatrapati Sambhajinagar

(Mahendrakumar Kamble)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Dharashiv,
District – Dharashiv

"All the 24 pages are signed by me."