

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED COMMISSIONING OF SHIRAWATA OFF-STREAM OPEN LOOP PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO PROJECT (1800 MW) PSP AT VILLAGE-KHANDSHI, TALUKA – MAVAL, DISTRICT-PUNE – 410 405, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed commissioning of Shirawata Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Hydro Project (1800 MW) (PSP) at Village-Khandshi, Taluka-Maval, District -Pune – 410 405, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s The Tata Power Company Limited was held on Tuesday, the 29th October, 2024 at 12.00 noon at project site Near Shirawta Dam, Mouje, Khandashi, Taluka-Maval, District – Pune – 410 405.

Shri Babasaheb Kukade, Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Sou. Jyoti Kadam, Additional District Magistrate, Pune and Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Jagannath Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives 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.

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

He informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 05/09/2024 from Project Proponent M/s The Tata Power Company Limited requesting to conduct Environment Public Hearing for their proposed Establishment of Shirawata Off-Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Hydro Project (1800 MW) (PSP) at Village-Khandshi, Taluka-Maval, District -Pune – 410 405, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No.1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 and Amended Notification, the proposed activities fall under Category A, Schedule 1 (c), which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application on -28/07/2023 along with pre-feasibility report to obtain ToR (Terms of Reference) to Ministry Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered by Government of India and granted online approval on 23/09/2024 and amended on 27/05/2024.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has appointed NABET approved Environment Consultant and through their Environment Consultant had carried detailed Environmental Survey in the radius of 10.0 k.m. of the project site to study the proposed impact on environment due to the commissioning of this project and prepared a draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and submitted it.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 06/09/2024 directed Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune vide letter dated 13/09/2024 requested Hon. District Collector, Pune to conduct Environment Public Hearing of the proposed activity.

District Collector, Pune vide letter dated 25/09/2024 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 29th October, 2024 at 12.00 noon, and after getting sanction from District Collector, Pune, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 and as per Amended Notification S.O. 3067 (E) Dated 01-12-2009 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 162 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 241001-FTS- 0074 dated 01-10-2024 as under: -

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1) District Magistrate-Pune
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Pune,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune | Convener |

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune in the local newspaper in daily Loksatta for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Indian Express for English on 25th September, 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. District Collector Office, Pune.
2. District Collector Office, Raigad.
3. District Industries Center, Pune.

4. District Industries Center, Raigad
5. Zilla Parishad, Pune.
6. Zilla Parishad, Raigad.
7. Regional Office Pune & Sub Regional Office Pune-II, MPC Board, Jog Centre, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Wakdewadi, Pune-Mumbai Road, Pune- 411 003.
8. Member Secretary, M.P.C. Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai - 22.
9. Zonal Office, West Central Zone, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur- 440 001.
10. Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 032
11. Sub-Divisional Officer Maval-Mulshi, Sub-Division Pune, Talathi Training Centre, Bavdhan, Tal-Mulshi, Dist-Pune
12. Sub-Divisional Officer Karjat, Tal. Karjat, Dist. Raigad.
13. Sub-Divisional Officer Khalapur, Tal. Khalapur, Dist. Raigad.
14. Tahasildar Maval, Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune.
15. Tahasildar Karjat, Tal. Karjat, Dist. Raigad.
16. Tahasildar Khalapur, Tal. Khalapur, Dist. Raigad.
17. Grampanchayat Office:- Dahuli (Group Grampanchayat), Khand (Group Grampanchayat), Kusavali (Group Grampanchayat), Takave Khurd (Group Grampanchayat), Malegaon Bk. (Group Grampanchayat), Wadeshwar (Group Grampanchayat), Kondiwade N. M. (Group Grampanchayat), Karanjgaon (Group Grampanchayat), Sangise (Group Grampanchayat), Wehergaon (Group Grampanchayat), Waksai (Group Grampanchayat), Dongargaon (Group Grampanchayat), Govitri (Group Grampanchayat), Siradhe (Group Grampanchayat), Khandshi (Group Grampanchayat), Karla (Group Grampanchayat), Kune Nama (Group Grampanchayat), Mudhaware (Group Grampanchayat), Malvali NM (Group Grampanchayat), Varsoli (Group Grampanchayat), Shilatane (Group Grampanchayat), Udhewadi (Group Grampanchayat), Uksan (Group Grampanchayat), Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune.
18. Grampanchayat Office:- Beed Bk. (Group Grampanchayat), Vadap (Group Grampanchayat), Khandpe (Group Grampanchayat), Kondiwade (Group Grampanchayat), Humgaon, Potal (Group Grampanchayat), Tal. Karjat, Dist. Raigad.
19. Grampanchayat Office:- Narangi, Beed Kh., Tal. Khalapur, Dist. Raigad.
20. Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai.

Convener informed that 15 suggestions / objections have been received by Sub Regional Officer, Pune-II, MPCB, Pune 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, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting in Marathi and English after approval of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. He requested Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

Project Proponent welcomed all the participants and briefed all the participants about the security arrangements and implementation at the venue of the meeting as per the policy of Tata Group. He said that in case of any emergency, exit through the back two doors, immediately ambulance, security guards will guide you further. After briefing about the security system, the presentation started.

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

Project Proponent said that Tata group has created its special identity in the world by adopting the principle of nation and humanity from the very beginning. Tata Power started generating hydroelectricity in the early 1900s to provide pollution-free electricity. Khopoli hydroelectric power station was established in 1915 and reservoirs were constructed at Kundli, Shirwata, Walvan and Lonavala.

The demand for electricity is increasing day by day and to meet that demand, Project Proponent is proposing an Off Stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Scheme of 1800 MW Shirwata (PSP), which is planned in Maval Taluka of Pune District of Maharashtra. An agreement has been signed with the Government of Maharashtra for this project. The project will be commissioned at Mauje Khandshi, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune. The existing Shirwata Dam Reservoir will be used for Lower Storage and a stone dam will be constructed for Upper Storage to use approximately 309 m Gross Head on the hill near Khandshi. The total cost of this project is Rs 7,027.72 crore and the cost of Environmental Management Plan of the project is Rs 72.88 crore. As there is no need for private land acquisition for this project, the issue of resettlement does not arise.

The man-power required for the construction phase of the project will be taken from the local area. The said project will definitely increase the economic and social development of the local people in the area.

After the presentation was completed, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to raise their suggestions / objections regarding the proposed project. Please mention your name and address while asking questions.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environmental Public Hearing and the answers / clarification given by the Project Proponent/ Project Environment Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee :-

1) Shri Prasad Bagve, Jan Andolan-Rashatriya Convener, State Convener Responsibility, Residence-Karla, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune:-

Tata Dam Sangharsha Committee is associated with our co-ordination. It was told in the meeting how all the procedures were completed before organizing Environmental Public Hearing. But actually, here it seems that the complete information about this project is not made available to the general public. Now here we came to know what kind of project the company is going to set up.

Also, even though a public notice regarding the said public hearing has been published in the newspaper, it does not seem to have reached the people here. Basically, very few people read English papers here. Also, Marathi newspaper Loksatta has less readership in the area. So, the information about the proposed project has not reached the local people till date. This is our objection.

Also, if the Presentation of whole proposed project is presented in ten minutes, how local people can understand in ten minutes? Our Environmental Expert is not present in the meeting. For that we need time to understand the project from our Environmental Expert. We will also need more time to check the mistakes and errors in the environment report from Environmental Experts. Also, it will take time to understand the damage which may cause due to this proposed project.

Also, when the Tata company acquired the land of local people for dams, it is mentioned in the mutual agreement that if the land is not used within five years, then the plots should be taken away from the Tata Group by the Government or the Tata group should transfer the land to Government. Hence, the land where the said project is going to be established is disputed land. Hence, I request Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee who is Representative of Hon. District Collector to start the procedure of acquisition of land from Project Proponent and transfer it to - Project Affected Persons (PAPs). We have been holding meetings with the various District Collectors who have been appointed over the years and requesting them to find a way out. Many times, such government officials come here who do not have the authority to take decisions. They come, don't give proper answers, ask for documents after 8-10 days. No progress has been made on rehabilitation. The then Collector, Pune has agreed to rehabilitate three villages, but nothing has been done so far.

There are livelihood issues of the PAPs. In the presentation, only promise of job opportunity is being given to the local people and PAPs. However, there is an experience that none of the project victims in this area has been given priority in employment. But this public hearing can be done properly if all the project victims are provided with all the information about the proposed project and given enough time. Hence, I demand that this Environmental Public Hearing be cancelled immediately.

- Project Proponent replied that Tata Power had acquired the land for the project in the early twentieth century following all the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. As per the rules existing at that time, whatever mutually agreed for acquisition of land, has been fully paid to the concerned PAPs. However, there is no question of misunderstanding and dispute arising in this regard.
- Project Proponent further informed that as per the directives as issued in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification by Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Govt. of India, New Delhi, Sub Regional Officer, Pune-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune has published 30 (Thirty) days in advance public notice regarding the Environment Public Hearing to be conducted in one local newspaper in Marathi and one national newspaper in English. Also, all the environmental documents of the proposed project i.e. EIA report, Executive Summary of the project were made available in the notified Government offices and in the Gram Panchayat offices of the project affected area to local people to study it. Also, all the environment documents of the proposed project were made available at the website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.
- Project Proponent explained that Shri Bagwe has raised an objection that the project victims are not being given employment opportunities in the project. So, all the security guards appointed at this Shirvata dam are local people. Also, the contractors required for various works in the project are 100% local. The workers who work in the project on behalf of those contractors are also local people.
- Also, many workers' and officials' third-fourth generations are employed in this Tata Power project. Project Proponent read out the names of many people. However, it is not right that local people and project victims were deprived of employment opportunities in the project.
- Project Proponent informed that as per the directives issued by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi under EIA Notification, 2006, NABET approved Environment Consultant has been appointed and respective Environment Consultant has carried a detailed environmental survey in the periphery of 10.0 k.m. of the project site and prepared a Draft EIA Report.

2) Shri Kisan Sambhaji Rane, Residence-Khandashi, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune;

We heartily welcome the planning of the proposed project here by the Tata Power Company. All the villages here did not have any sources of livelihood, except agriculture. Here all the villages are dependent on agriculture.

However, it is a request to management of Tata Power Company that the proposed project should extend job opportunities to young boys and girls of this area.

Shri Kisan Rane demanded that if the management of the company has carried an environmental study of the area, then they should give an answer regarding the present conditions of the streams and drains here.

- Project Proponent answered that Shri Rane had asked a question regarding the study of streams and drains in the area. It is guaranteed that no stream or drain in the area will be affected due to this project.

3) Shri Rohidas Jambhulkar, Sarpanch, Govitri Grampanchayat, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune:-

I welcome the proposed project. Because this project will provide employment to local people. However, it appears that there are only a few contractors who are considered and awarded the project works. Hence, other contractors in the area should be given contracts to work on the project.

Also, Tata Power should take care of Shirade, Govitri, Khandshi Gram Panchayat area and there should not be any harm to the bio-diversity of this area. Good luck to the project.

- Project Proponent answered that when a hydro-electric project is operational, job opportunities in the project are less than other industries. This project is an investment of around 7,000.0 crores.
- Around 1,000-1,500 workers will be required during the project construction phase. Local contractors will also get opportunities for this. The work will take about 4 - 4 1/2 years. According to the project management policy, maximum priority will be given to local people.

4) Shri Nivrutti Maruti Takalkar, Residence-Mouje Budhwadi village, Taluka-Maval, District – Pune:-

Warmest wishes from all our villagers for the proposed environmental project. However, even though the presentation shows that 70% of the local people have been provided with job opportunities, it should be considered that only 5% of the local people have not got any employment in the last hundred years since the dam/project started. Also, the 9-10 villages from Kamshet should have to be considered. Villages were adopted. Not a single social welfare issue has been solved in the last twenty years. Around 1982-84 there was a mass movement for this. Senior citizens also participated in it.

However, it is requested that Government should take follow up for the pending social welfare schemes and involve all the villagers in this project.

- Project Proponent replied that lot of work has been carried at Golden Gate High School, Karanjgaon, Umbarwadi School, Sangeshi School etc. A lot of social work can also be done at the villages during the project construction phase. Project management will definitely take it up.

5) Shri Ankush Rambhau Kadam, Residence – Jabhivali village, Shiradhe Grampanchayat, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

We welcome the 1,800 MW project planned by Tata Power. While doing this, there is Shiradhe Gram Panchayat and there are four Group Gram Panchayat. This proposed project will be commissioned within the limits of this Group Gram Panchayat. We held meetings in villages. But the local villagers have not got the correct information about the project. A Tata Dam was constructed at Somwadi 25 years

ago. At that time, many promises of employment and other promises were made to the local people.

But since 25 years, those promises have not been fulfilled. While this project will be commissioned mostly in Shiradhe Gram Panchayat area, Torane Village, Somwadi Village, Jabhivali Village are in the project area. Hence, Tata Management has requested that the Tata company should call a joint meeting considering all these villages. All villagers of four villages will be present there and our problems can be raised there.

Also, since ours is a rural tribal area, job opportunities should be given to local people. The promise made 25 years ago has not fulfilled, so we formed a village wise Committee. At that time, some people in our village got jobs

However, if village wise committees are formed, the needy person will definitely get job. Otherwise, the one who does not need will get work, and the needy person will be deprived of employment. This should be kept in mind by Project Proponent.

- Project Proponent replied that your suggestions are welcomed. As previously answered, this project will be completed by taking local people and local people will be given job opportunities in the project.
- Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants that suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle please be raised as this Environment Public Hearing.

6) Shri Bhagwan Sindhu Rokade, Residence – Shirwata Village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune:-

Tata has made us homeless. Nothing has been given to these seven villages of ours, no compensation has been given, no alternative land has been given, no village children have been employed. We request that we continue to oppose this project unless the seven villages are compensated and rehabilitated.

- Project Proponent replied that the present suggestions will definitely be considered by Project Management.

7) Shri Sunanda Reddy, an Environmentalist, Telangana State:-

My best wishes to Tata Power and villagers.

The purpose of public hearing is if there any effects on water, air, land due to proposed project. This is Zero Pollution Industry. Renewal Industry is very important now-a-days. This is only Renewal Industry – 365 days – 24 hours running project. Solar Project is not working 365 days – 24 hours, Wind Energy Project also cannot operate for 365 days.

In this context, this is very important power project. Government should grant unconditional permission to this industry. If this project would have Thermal Power Project, 8,000 crores will have expenses to be incurred. Appreciation to Tata Power. They are saving money for the nation. There is no water utilization, reuse of the water system. In Hydro Power, water is going downwards. Here water is going from

upwards to downwards. The public hearing process takes three years. It is very time consuming. Requesting MoEF & CC to give permission in 60 days or 90 days.

I am giving few suggestions – Instead of normal plants, medicinal valued plants and fruit bearing plants should be planted. Also form a Co-ordination Committee to use CSR budget consisting members of MPCB, company officials and government officials. Take in hand demand oriented work – it will give great credibility to the management of the company. You are giving more job opportunities in this project. Unemployed young boys and girls in project affected area be given Skilled Development Courses with the help of the Government. Finally, I request Government to give unconditional permission to this industry.

- Project Proponent thanked for supporting the project. Project Proponent said that Shri Reddy has suggested planting of medicinal value plants and fruit bearing plants while developing the green belt. Project Proponent answered that green belt is developed as per guidance and directives of local Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra. Hence there should not be any foreign species which can plant here. Enough fund is reserved for various CSR activities.

8) Shri Kaluram Baqaji Thorve, Ex. Sarpanch, Mundavale Gram Panchayat, Residence – Vadivale Village, Tal.- Maval, Dist. Pune

We agree with the information you have provided about the proposed project through the presentation. But while constructing the project, you are going to cut trees. So as many trees will be cut, will all those cut trees be replanted?

Also our commuting road is a road from National Highway (NH 4) via Vadiwale, Mundawale, Wadiwale Valad, Sangishe, Budhwadi to Khandashi, Nesave or there is one road from Nanegate. Hence whether you are starting the work of the road before starting commissioning of the project.

Because as an environmental activist like me desires that road to be widened by Tata. If the road is not possible due to the railway, then there is a convenient road from Upper Side of Mundavale village. It is a request that it be done through Tata Group.

This project is definitely good. The project will be operational in 4-5 years, surely the poor people of the area will get employment. However, the company management requested that all the people of Gram Panchayat should be given employment contract in the project

- While giving thanks to Shri Kaluram Thorave, Project Proponent answered that the directives as issued by Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra are strictly followed while cutting the trees.
- No tree is cut down without the prior permission of the Forest Department. According to the rules of the Forest Department, as many trees as are cut down, the same number of trees have to be replanted elsewhere.
- It is carried out under the supervision of the Forest Department by charging a fee for replanting trees from the Project Proponent by Forest Department.

Shri Thorve suggested about the road construction. The suggestion is welcomed. Because project also needs a road. After starting the construction of the project, the traffic, heavy vehicle traffic will increase to a large extent.

- The work will definitely be undertaken. Similarly, the local people have already been given an explanation regarding the job opportunities.

9) Shri Viraj Bhushan Randive, Residence – Umbarwadi, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

Those who will be affected by the proposed project are the farmers. Our agriculture is based on the water released from the Tata dam.

An explanation should be given as to whether the water released from the dam will be polluted due to the proposed project, will it affect our agriculture, animals and also will the water released from Tata Dam to the river be reduced or how?

How arrangement of providing water will be made while starting the construction of the project? After completion of project, water will be used for production of electricity. Then, whether local people will get less water? Explain the details.

- Project Proponent, while replying, said that at the current rate of water supply to the local farmers, there will not be a drop of water in the water supply.
- Project Proponent said that the capacity of Shiravatta dam is 200 million cubic meters. The proposed project requires only 15.0 cubic meters of water.
- Every day we do the activity of releasing water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir and water from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir. It is assured that there will be no impact on the water available to the villagers.

10) Shri Mahendra Kacharu Ovhal, Tata Dharangrasta Sangharsha Samiti :-

In the Presentation, it is shown that Tata is doing a lot of social work in the project area. It was said in the presentation that they (Tata) build schools, roads and also rehabilitated villages. Seven villages have been affected due to this Shirwata dam. Those villages have disappeared from the map of Maval taluka, which is done by Tata. They have not been rehabilitated. In this, Shirwata village, Torna, Umbre, Palandi, Aunde Khurd, Aunde Budruk were all displaced due to the dam. But these names are not shown anywhere in the map of Maval, in the map of India. Where these villages have gone, where the people of these villages have gone, what Tata has done for them? Information should be given. Tata has not done anything for the project affected farmers. This company is lying a lot. These project-affected villages have not been expanded or rehabilitated

We do not believe on Tata, and we will not allow this project to commission here. If the local people are disturbed, the villagers of all the Gram Panchayats here will be against the project.

When Tata started testing the land. Heavy machinery was introduced at that time. Because of its sound, the tiger here was in Torangaon. He was there for four days

Animals are also suffering due to environmental degradation by the company. That tiger was injured and then was in Somwadi village for three days. This means that this company has started to harm animals as well as humans.

Hence, it is requested to the government to start this project with the consent of all without disturbing the environment.

- Project Proponent thanked Shri Mahendra Kacharu Ovhal and explained that again I state that the land acquired for the project has been done as per the Act of 1894.
- Compensation was given to all as per the norms of that time. It means houses, trees, wells, lands, places of worship etc. have been paid according to the rules of that time. So, the question of non-payment does not arise here.
- Shri Mahendra Kacharu Ovhal raised the issue of tiger while giving suggestions. Project Proponent said that they do not have any idea about it. But the administration of the project acts responsibly for all i.e. nature, flora and fauna.

Shri Mahendra Kacharu Ovhal stated that staff of the project is moving in the Shirwata Tata Dam. Ask them, if not I will send a video clip. Another subject my land is in Toran. Land measurement was done, application form was filled for it, Rupees twelve thousand was paid, Sat Bara (government document of the land) is on my name and Tata gave a letter to Government that my plot should not be measured. Tata Group made hurdles for measurement of my own land and still it is not measured.

- Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed the audience that if anyone had personal questions, it should be submitted separately. Discussions on land acquisition, compensation, rehabilitation is not expected here. Participant can submit their suggestions/objections after the meeting, it will be checked. This Environment Public Hearing meeting is to raise suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Hence, only suggestions/objections. This is Environmental Public Hearing and hence suggestions/objections regarding the impact on environment due to commissioning of the proposed project be raised, which will be noted.

11) Shri Pappu Kute, Somwadi Village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

We support the project that Tata has planned in our area. We need the project. In the discussions, the topic of animals and their feeds, water, protection of the project area was raised. We are ready to discuss it with the Project Administration.

- Project Proponent replied that the proposed project is guaranteeing that animal fodder, water will not be affected.

- Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all participants that the same questions should not be raised. Those who wish to submit written representations should do so.
- This meeting is Environmental Public Hearing regarding the proposed project and hence suggestions/objections regarding proposed project in environmental angle be raised.

12) Shri Kailas Baban Gaikwad, Residence – Kambre, Taluka - Maval, District – Pune :-

This project is coming up in Tata Dam in our Shirwata village. Bhoomiputras/Sons of soil and farmers of the area are present to raise their suggestions/objections. Here some have presented supplementary suggestions for the project, while some have also registered objections about the proposed project.

However, I would like to tell my local farmers and Bhoomiputra that our area is remote area. There are no job opportunities available here. But we should welcome the project. Also, if some people are facing problems due to this project, then Tata Power should directly discuss with them and find a way to solve them, but because of this project, one in every family in every village has chances of job opportunity. Similarly, this project will increase indirect business activities in the area as many business opportunities will be available to the local people. Local person who own tractors, JCBs or other equipment's will also get a business chances. If the youth of the locality get a job, their family will be able to survive.

Due to unemployment, many youths are getting addicted due to depression. This project is happening in our village and if we oppose it in the wrong way, we are harming our children. He further said that the suggestions given by the dam victims here are correct. Company Management must take a positive decision on it.

But I request everyone to let this project happen in your area. Our part should be developed through Tata Power.

He suggested Environment Public Hearing Committee that during the monsoons, the electricity supply in this area is interrupted for a long time. If Tata Power arranges to provide alternative electricity to the people here, it will be very good, I am making this demand on behalf of all.

Everyone knows that when a natural calamity strikes, Tata is the first to come to the rescue. However, the people of our area are demanding that Tata should consider the problems of the local people and find a way out.

- Project Proponent who care about the environment should take it. However, Tata Power should also co-operate with the local.
- Project Proponent thanked Shri Gaikwad and assured to give positive consideration to the suggestions raised.

13) Dr. Satish Pande ILLA Foundation:-

I am working on various environmental projects of Tata Power for last 35 years. We are working for the project which is making awareness regarding health and

puberty among the adolescent girls in rural, remote and hilly areas for 35 years. I am working in Purandar area.

Name of our organization is Ila Foundation. This organization was founded by Bharat Ratna Bhimsen Joshi. This is an Environment Public Hearing, so let me tell you few things.

He informed that Lot of work has been carried by us on farmers' health issues. Pesticides, Insecticides, fungicides and vidcides are having very bad effects on our farmer brothers. We are making them aware regarding bads effects.

Government of India has formulated a policy, it is directly under the authority of the Prime Minister. It is – " One Health Mission." It means health of the environment, the health of animals, and the health of people have to be considered together. We have researched and published a book on the bio-diversity of Lonavla-Khandala as entrusted by Tata Power.

Also, we conducted research on bio-diversity in all Tata reservoirs. We wrote books on frogs and reptiles

In the meeting it has been suggested that indigenous, medicinal plants, fruit bearing plants should be planted in the project. Tata Power is working on it. However, I don't think this project will harm the environment.

He said I am the Honorary Wildlife Warden of Pune. So, I can also help you for the Government as well as from the Government.

14) Shri Manohar Sonawane, Residence – Torangaon, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

The only thing I have to say to the Additional District Magistrate and Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Committee is that in 1930, I am a small land-holder of Toran village. My land was acquired by Tata Power, but as there was no dam there, Tata Power transferred the land to the government.

Government gave that land to one of our four farmers. Since 2011 till now we are fighting in Vadgaon court. We are toiling our agriculture fields there, but we still have not got possession of the land. However, we request you to inquire about this with the Revenue Department.

Local people should given job opportunities in the proposed project.

15) Shri Dyaneshwar Namdeo Mohite, Residence-Umbarwadi, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune:-

It has been 100 years since the construction of dam, now the new project is going to start here. Tatas have acquired land under section 35 from the Government. If section 35 for Tata land is repealed, then how twenty guntas of land which is of four farmer brothers is stamped/notified as forest land?

Umbarwadi is dam affected village. This project has been going on for a hundred years, but now a new project is coming. However, in the proposed project,

job opportunities should be given to the local people of all Gram Panchayats in the project area. Congrats to the company management for planning the new project.

16) Maya Yewale, Atharva Yewale Social Foundation:-

I personally run the Atharva Yevale Social Foundation. In the social sector, I work in Maval region. I have been working in this field for the past eleven years. We have worked with Tata Power on many issues.

68 youths were trained for police recruitment through Tata Power. 17-18 of these children have joined the police administration. This report has been given to Tata by the organization. So, Tata's work is remarkable in all social work such as education, health, work and for women empowerment.

Our organization is working with Tata under CSR. In April-May, some officers from Tata Power and our organization met with the villagers in Khandi to understand their needs. Accordingly, Tata Power has planned to implement the next social schemes

I request that local youth should be given Skill Development Training to empower them for employment. Hence, Tata Power has given suggestions to conduct training for equivalent posts like plumber, fitter, electrician required in the factory. It will definitely benefit the local people. Good luck with the project

- Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise different questions which should be related with environment regarding the proposed project. Questions regarding Job opportunities and Land have been asked by many people, hence the issue now should not be raised. Those who desires to submit written suggestions/objections can submit it. This will be now last question.

17) Shri Madhukar Bhalerao, Chairman, Bhushi, Lonavala Tata Dharangrast Maval Mulshi Sangarsha Samiti -

Questions of many years are related to Tata company. For many years, Tata company employed a person from a dam affected family in the company, but they did not employ any workers for Bhushi, Valvan, and other dams.

Now in the proposed project, one person from Tata dam affected family should be given employment contract and other pending issues should be resolved.

- Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to submit written submissions, if any.

18) Shri Balasaheb Thakar, Residence – Toran, village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune:-

This project is located on top of Toran and Jambola village. The proper information about this project has been given to us by the representatives of the Tata administration. Also, those parts of the locality which need to be given priority should be given priority

We will guide the Tatas in writing. We have a lot of problems for the school. It is given in writing.

19) Shri Sachin Pawar, Residence-Somwadi village, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

This project will generate job opportunities in our area. Welcome to this project though. Farmer brothers are present here. They have problems. All of them should be resolved. Environmental notice means that in our four villages - Shirade, Somwadi, Toran, Jambali, water is pumped, but after October, after the water level is reduced, the water pump should be stopped. So water availability plan should be arranged. No doubt you care about it. Also, at Somvadi village, there is reserved Cow Grazing Plot (Gai Ran) is in the area of the company and there is no road for us to go to Cow Grazing Plot (Gairan) as Tata company surrounds the village. There is a gate. However, the gate should be opened

All riverside land in the village has been acquired by Tata Power. The village graveyard is on the river side. However, the road for the crematorium should be made available.

- Convener of the meeting again appealed all participants not to ask the same questions again.

20) Shri Vijay Shirsath, Member, Khandashi Gram Panchayat, Taluka -Maval, District – Pune:-

The project of Tata Power is being done at Khandshi Gram Panchayat area. A warm welcome to it. Local will co-operate with Tata Power. The water that is supplied to our village from this dam, after the generation of electricity, the polluted water is going to be released, then are you going to release the same water in the dam? We will drink the same water and will it affect the people of our village?

- Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that the same questions are being raised on the same topics. However, this is the last question being taken now. Apart from this, if the participants desires to ask questions, it should be submitted in writing to the representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

21) Shri Vitthal Shirsath, Residence – Vesave, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune

:-

A warm welcome to the Tata project. The problems of the village have been presented in written form. Dam water is used for agriculture and drinking. So, after operation the project it should be abundant for agriculture and drinking. Local people should be given priority in the proposed project. Submitting written suggestions, objections

22) Shri Ramesh Kokate, Zendegaon, Taluka – Maval, District – Pune :-

Tata Company is always conscious about environment. Congratulations to Tata. They promised to develop all the villages. But here Shiradhe villagers have to go eight km unnecessarily. If the gate is opened, the villagers of Shiradhe will have

to go only one and a half km away. Now Project Proponent says we will carry development work, but the bus stop of Shiradhe village has not been completed.

Giving the word of development work, but the work of the villagers is kept pending. Tata Company has given permission for farming, but Tata said that tractors, JCBs are not to be used. So how will farmers turn to industrial farming?

However, the Environmental Public Hearing Committee should give further directives in this regard. It has been 25 years since the dam was built, but one km. road has not been made by the company. But first these questions should be resolved.

- Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all to raise suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Also if anybody desires to submit written suggestions/objections, it can be submitted. Receipt will be issued only.

While concluding the meeting, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that many local issues were raised by the participants and the Project Proponent has promised to adopt a positive policy by giving proper answers to them. Similarly, some of the participants have properly registered environmental suggestions and objections.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that it is already informed that this meeting 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 are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting which will be prepared in Marathi and in English. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting after approval of Chairperson, written suggestions and objections as received 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

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee thanked Chairperson, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, Representative, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, Nayab Tahsildar, Collector Office, Pune, Circle Officer, Maval, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels, Police Administration and Company Officials and local people / participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson. Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 15 written suggestions/objections as received.



(Babasaheb Kukade)

Convener,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Sub Regional Officer,

Pune-II,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,

Pune



(Jagannath Salunkhe)

Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Regional Officer-Pune

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,

Pune



(Jyoti Kadam)

Chairperson,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Additional District Magistrate, Pune

District – Pune



MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Phone No. 24010437 / 24020781
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Sion (E), Mumbai – 400 022.

"Your Service is our Duty"

No./MPCB/JD(WPC)/ENV/PH/B- 241226-FTS-0049

Date: 26/12/2024

To,
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003.

Sub: Environmental Clearance - Proceedings of Public Hearing in respect of **Proposed** Shirawta Off-stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Hydro Project (1800 MW). **Proposed by** M/s.The Tata Power Company Ltd, Vill- Khandshi, Tal-Maval, Dist-Pune.

Ref: Sub-Regional Office Pune-II vide letter dtd-03.12.2024, Received on 13.12.2024.

Sir,

The Public Hearing for **Proposed** Shirawta Off-stream Open Loop Pumped Storage Hydro Project (1800 MW). **Proposed by** M/s.The Tata Power Company Ltd, Vill- Khandshi, Tal-Maval, Dist-Pune.

Environmental public hearing conducted on conducted on dtd. 29.10.2024, Tuseday, Time-12.00 Noon. Location- Near Shirawta Dam Mouje Khandshi, Tal-Maval, Dist-Pune. The minutes of the public hearing approved and duly signed by the Public hearing panel along with the proceedings are enclosed.

- Minutes of public hearing duly signed by the Chairman of public hearing panel in (English)
- Copy of Office Order
- Video DVD and Photograph of Public Hearing.
- List of participants.
- Newspaper Notices for Environmental Public Hearing in English & Marathi.

This is submitted for further necessary action please.

Yours Sincerely,


(Dr. Avinash Dhakne, IAS),
Member Secretary

Encl: As above

Copy for information & necessary action to:

- 1) The Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune.
- 2) The Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Pune-II.
- 3) EIC, M.P. C. Board, Mumbai - For information & display of Minutes on website.

Copy to the applicant of the project:

M/s.The Tata Power Company Ltd, Vill- Khandshi, Tal-Maval, Dist-Pune.