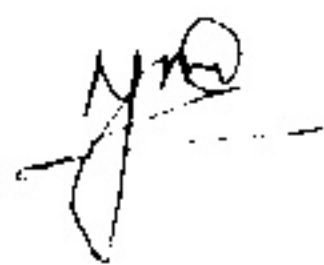


MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF EXPANSION IN EXISTING SUGAR FACTORY FROM 5,000.0 TCD TO 8,000.0 TCD (EXPANSION BY 3,000.0 TCD), PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF 3.0 MW ELECTRICITY GENERATION PROJECT AND PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF 200.0 KLPD B/C HEAVY MOLASSES/SUGARCANE JUICE BASED DISTILLERY PROJECT AT POST – TAKALI-SIKANDAR, TALUKA-MOHOL, DISTRICT-SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S BHIMA SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED, AT POST-TAKALI SIKANDAR, TALUKA-MOHOL, DISTRICT – SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA -

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of expansion in existing Sugar Factory from 5,000.0 TCD TO 8,000.0 TCD (Expansion by 3,000.0 TCD), Establishment of Proposed 3.0 MW Electricity Generation Project and Establishment of Proposed 200.0 KLPD B/C Heavy Molasses/Sugarcane Juice Based Distillery Project At Post -Takali-Sikandar, Taluka - Mohol, District - Solapur, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s. Bhima Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, At Post – Takali Sikandar, Taluka-Mohol, District-Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Thursday, the 28th November, 2024 at 12.00 noon at Project Site.

Shri. Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Manisha Kumbhar, Additional District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri. Jagannath S. Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Pune and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri. Navnath Awatade, Sub Regional Officer, Regional Office Pune, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings of the meeting.

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, Gol) 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.

Convener further informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 17-04-2024 from Project Proponent M/s. Bhima Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, At Post – Takali Sikandar, Taluka-Mohol, District-Solapur, Maharashtra to conduct Environment Public Hearing in respect of their expansion in existing Sugar Factory from 5,000.0 TCD TO 8,000.0 TCD (Expansion by 3,000.0 TCD), Establishment of Proposed 3.0 MW Electricity Generation Project and Establishment of Proposed 200.0 KLPD B/C Heavy Molasses/Sugarcane Juice Based Distillery Project At Post -Takali-Sikandar, Taluka-Mohol, District-Solapur, 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 – Sugar Production - 5 (j); Co-gen Project – 1 (d) and Distillery – 5 (g); 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 29-04-2023 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 09-05-2023.

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 20/06/2024 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur requested Hon. District Collector, Solapur to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activities. District Collector, Solapur directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Thursday the 28th November, 2024 at 12.00 noon, and after getting sanction from District Collector, Solapur, 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- 169 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 241126- FTS- 0051 dated 26-11-2024 as under: -

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1) District Magistrate-Solapur
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,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Solapur | Convener |

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur in the local newspaper Daily Sanchar for language Marathi and in newspaper daily Divya Marathi for English on 27-10-2024. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under:-



- 1) 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, Collector Office, Solapur;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Solapur;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur;
- 5) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Mohol, Taluka-Mohol, District -Solapur;
- 6) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti-Mohol, District-Solapur;
- 7) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Pandharpur, Taluka-Pandharpur, District - Solapur;
- 8) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti-Pandharpur, District-Solapur;
- 9) **Taluka -Mohol – Grampanchayat Offices -**
Varkute, Shejbabhulgaon, Patkul, Takli Sikandar, Soundane, Aundhi, Adhegaon, Penur, Kothale, Ankoli
- 10) **Taluka - Pandharpur – Grampanchayat Offices -**
Mouje Fulchincholi, Tarapur, Puluji, Pohargaon, Ambechincholi, Magarwadi;
- 11) Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 12) Hon. Member Secretary, Head Office, 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, Jog Center, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Wakadewadi, Old Pune-Mumbai Road, Pune – 411 003;
- 14) Sub Regional Officer, Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, B/4, Bali Building, Civil Lines, Opp. Government Milk Dairy, Sat Rasta, Solapur – 413 003;
- 15) Website – Maharashtra Pollution Control Board – Executive Summary Marathi and English is available;

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, 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 Environment Consultant welcomed all the participants and with the permission of Hon'ble Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee made a presentation about the project and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the project. She said that, this project is in interest of the of local farmers.

The investment for the establishment of proposed Distillery Project is ₹ 200.0 crore, while for the proposed sugar expansion plant it is ₹ 90.0 crore. Also, about 350 manpower is needed in the proposed expanded sugar factory and proposed distillery project and for that, priority will be given to local people.

Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU) in the proposed distillery will recycle 100% of the effluent and the said distillery is ZLD. - It is a "Zero Liquid Discharge" project and not a single drop of treated waste water will be released outside the project.

In the proposed project, a provision of ₹ 21.54 crores has been made for environmental protection and a provision of ₹ 2.90 crores (1% of Rs.290.0



crores) has been made for social and economic development (CSR) in the area.

As per Central Pollution Control Board's directives, 33% of the total project area is mandated to be developed as green belt, but here, Project Proponent will develop more than that i.e. 34% green belt.

In the proposed project, the capital expenditure for environmental management will be ₹ 2,154.0 lakhs and for the maintenance of various pollution control systems ₹ 292.0 lakhs per annum.

The said project is in the interest of the local area, Maharashtra state and the country.

After the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed participants that with the permission of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee participants to raise their suggestions, views, objections in respect of proposed project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to raise suggestions, views, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. While raising suggestions, objections, first inform the name and name of the village.

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

1) Shri. Laxman Prabhu Kilmishe, At Post – Fulchincholi, Taluka – Pandharpur, District – Solapur:-

How many days the proposed Distillery Project will remain in operation?

Project Environmental Consultant replied that the Distillery will use sugarcane juice as raw material during sugarcane season and B or C molasses as raw material after completion of sugarcane crop season.

Therefore, Distillery plant will remain operational for 330 days, while Sugar Unit will remain operational for 180 days.

2) Shri. Bharat Vitthal Patil, At Post -Puluj, Taluka – Pandharpur, District – Solapur :-

How Proposed Project will benefit the farmers in the vicinity of the project?

Environment Consultant answered that, the economic conditions of the factory could not remain stable without producing additive products as shown in the Presentation. Molasses will be used in the distillery, so the farmers will get additional rate for their sugarcane crop due to extra income to the factory.

Ash which will be produced in the project. Potash will be mixed with ash and it can be sold as fertilizer. Here also factory can earn additional income.

Also, in the project, there is CO₂ bottling plant. The CO₂ - Carbon-Dioxide produced during fermentation can be bottled and will be sold to soft drink manufacturers. This will generate additional income for the factory. Thus, these efforts will provide additional income to the factory and farmers can be paid a better price for their sugarcane crop. Farmers will benefit from this.

3) Shri. Suryabhan Ankush Kamble, At Post - Shankargaon, Taluka - Pandharpur, District - Solapur:-

What measures will be undertaken to control air pollution and noise pollution caused due to project production process?

Project Environmental Consultant answered that flue gas produced by burning the fuel in the boiler will be discharged in the ESP (Electro-Static-Precipitator). ESP is the most advanced air pollution control system. All the dust particles in flue gas are arrested in ESP. Only then, the clean smoke will be released from the chimney. ESP will be connected to the boiler. Distillery plant does not have high noise equipments and machineries. But PPEs (Personal Protection Equipments) i.e. ear mugs, ear plugs will be made available to the employees who work near the noise generating machineries in the project. Since the said project is most modern, advanced equipments and machineries will be commissioned. Many activities in the project are going to be operated by automatic control. Also, for precaution,



Annual Medical Checkup will be done for all the workers and employees of the project.

4) Shri. Shivaji Gurusiddha Shendge, Residence -Puluj, Taluka – Pandharpur, District – Solapur :-

How many people will get job opportunities in the proposed project?

Project Environmental Consultant said that 300 (three hundred) persons are working in the operational project. Proposed project, i.e. Sugar Production Expansion and Distillery Project, can provide job opportunities to additional 350 persons. Priority will be given to local people only. If there are skilled posts in the project, Skill Development Training for local boys and girls will be arranged and job opportunities will be given to successful persons.

5) Ms. Reshma Sachin Davali, At Post – Takli Sikandar, Tal-Mohol, District – Solapur:-

How much alcohol will be produced per day from the proposed distillery plant?

Environmental Consultant said that, the proposed distillery plant has a production capacity of 2,00,000.0 liters per day (two lakh liters per day).

6) Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

In the meeting, Shri. Bharat Patil, villager has raised the question that how proposed factory will benefit the farmers and villagers of the area? The benefit should be like whether Project Proponent will make available sugarcane seeds, whether company is going to test the soil, whether Project Proponent is going to test water, whether Project Proponent is going to set up a laboratory, whether Project Proponent is going to create some jobs for the local women, what can the local farmers, women get benefit from this project should be informed in simple language.

Environmental Consultant while giving information said that, the proposed project will generate job opportunities. Proposed project can provide job opportunities to 350 persons. We are going to set up a laboratory, so local farmers will be guided about which crops to be planted through soil testing.

Similarly, local women will also be given job opportunities in the proposed project.

Environmental Consultant remarked that, the proposed project will generate 350 direct employments and also huge increase in indirect business/employment in the vicinity of factory, i.e. local mobile repair shops, two-wheeler repair shops, tea and beverage shops, transporters etc.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee remarked that questions, suggestions have been raised by the local people in a very appropriate manner and the Project Environmental Consultant has properly answered them. Hence, Hon. Chairperson is requested to take further action

While concluding the meeting Hon. Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that today we have gathered for Environment Public Hearing of M/s. Bhima Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Takli Sikandar, Taluka-Mohol, District – Solapur, Maharashtra for expansion in existing Sugar Factory from 5,000.0 TCD TO 8,000.0 TCD (Expansion by 3,000.0 TCD), Establishment of Proposed 3.0 MW Electricity Generation Project and Establishment of Proposed 200.0 KLPD B/C Heavy Molasses/Sugarcane Juice Based Distillery Project At Post -Takali-Sikandar, Taluka-Mohol, District-Solapur, Maharashtra

Environmental Consultant of the project gave detailed information about the proposed project and its EMP - Environmental Management Plan and gave relevant answers to the questions asked by the participants.

Chairperson Environment Public Hearing Committee said that, the main objective of this Environmental Public Hearing is to inform the people of the area about the impact of the proposed project on the environment, and what measures are planned to control it.

Similarly, Project Proponent and their Environment Consultant are expected to answer the queries and questions raised by the participants. It is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to submit their any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in written form by today only. The important thing here is that here we do not take any decision, but the suggestions and objections of the people are submitted to the Government.



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

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending this meeting and declared that meeting is concluded.

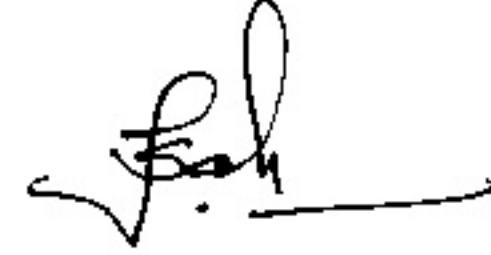
Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith written suggestions / objections/ comments/ complaints as received with regards to Public hearing.



(Nikhil More)

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



(Jagannath S. Salunkhe)

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



(Manisha Kumbhar)

Chairperson
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Solapur
District – Solapur