

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF COMMISSIONING OF PROPOSED PROJECT OF 1,35,000 TPA OF BAUXITE HAVING ML AREA OF 7.12 HECTOR AREA, TRAFFIC/APPROACH ROAD AREA – 0.42 HECTOR OUT OF PROJECT AREA OF 7.54 HECTOR UNDER B1 CATEGORY FOR PRODUCT OF BAUXITE, AT GAT NO. 223 (P), POST-VILLAGE PARALI, TALUKA-SHAHUWADI, DISTRICT-KOLHAPUR, MAHARASHTRA BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SHREE MALHAR MINERALS, PLOT NO.15, RS NO.109/1/B, C WARD, SITA COLONY, OPP. JAIN BOARDING, KARVEER, DISTRICT-KOLHAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of commissioning of Proposed Project of 1,35,000 TPA Of Bauxite Having ML Area of 7.12 Hectors Area, Traffic/Approach Road Area – 0.42 Hectors, Out Of Project Area Of 7.54 Hectors Under B1 Category For Product of Bauxite, Gat No. 223 (P), At Post -Village Parali, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur, Maharashtra By Project Proponent M/s Shree Malhar Minerals, Plot No.15, RS No.109/1/B, C Ward, Sita Colony, Opp. Jain Boarding, Karveer, District – Kolhapur, Maharashtra was held on Monday, the 9th June, at 11.00 a.m. at Zilla Parishad Primary School, Mandavkarwadi in Parli Village, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Shri Vidyasagar V. Killedar, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur And Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sanjay Teli, Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Nikhil Gharat, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Shri Sameer Shingate, Sub Divisional Officer, Taluka-Panhala, District-Kolhapur, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels, Police Administration 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 also informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 29-11-2024 from Project Proponent M/s Shree Malhar Minerals, Plot No.15, RS No.109/1/B, C Ward, Sita Colony, Opp. Jain Boarding, Karveer, District – Kolhapur, Maharashtra to conduct Environment Public Hearing for their Proposed Project of 1,35,000 TPA Of Bauxite Having ML Area of 7.12 Hectors Area, Traffic/Approach Road Area – 0.42 Hectors, out of Project Area Of 7.54 under B1 Category for product Bauxite, At Post -Village Parali, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur, 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 “B” which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Government of Maharashtra issued Letter of Intent (LOI) vide MMN-0719/C.R.42 (Part-6)/IND-9, dated 11-09-2019, for granting lease for 7.54 hectares to M/s Shree Malhar Minerals. Letter of Intent (LOI) was issued to M/s Shree Malhar Minerals for a period of 50 years in the auction process.

The mining plan for the project has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) on 31-07-2020

The area is forest land. An area of 7.54 hectares is included under Survey No. 223 (Part). The project holders have submitted an application to obtain permission from the Forest Department.

Project Proponent has submitted an online application dated 06 September 2023 to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) and prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai and it is approved Online dated 07-09-2023 by Maharashtra Government.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has appointed an Environmental Consultant who has obtained NABET approval as per the directives of the Government of India and have carried out the environmental assessment through the environmental consultant. A detailed environmental survey within a 10.0 km radius of the project site was carried from 1st March, 2022 to 31st May, 2022 (three months).

A draft of the project site and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared and submitted to study the potential impact/impacts on the environment due to the establishment of the proposed project.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 28-02-2025 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur vide office note dated 03-03-2025 requested Hon. District Collector, Kolhapur to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Kolhapur vide office note dated 05-03-2025 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on 23-04-2025 at 11.00 a.m. at Primary School at Kasarwaedi (Kalamawadi), Parali village, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra and after getting sanction from District Collector, Kolhapur, 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- 23 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 250402-FTS- 0149, dated 02-04-2025.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur in the local newspaper daily Pudhari for Marathi and in national newspaper in daily Times of India for English on 20-03-2025. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project. Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices.

Thereafter, the project proponent has requested to Hon. District Collector, Kolhapur vide their letter dtd. 09-04-2025 to cancel the public hearing due to financial conditions. As per the request letter from project proponent and directions of District Magistrate, Kolhapur, the environment public hearing fixed on 23-04-2025 at 11.00 AM is being cancelled.

The cancellation of said proposed public hearing was published by Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur in the local newspaper in daily Pudhari for Marathi and in national newspaper in daily Times of India for English on 21-04-2025.

Again, the project proponent has submitted letter dtd. 30-04-2025 to newly conduct the public hearing at Zilla Parishad Primary School, Mandavkarwadi of Parli, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur. Thereafter, MPC Board has submitted note on 30-04-2025 for newly conducting the public hearing.

The Hon. District Collector, Kolhapur directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 09th June, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. at Zilla Parishad Primary School, Mandavkarwadi of Parli, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra and after getting sanction from District Collector, Kolhapur, 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-41 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 250515- FTS- 0124, dated 15-05-2025 as under: -

- 1) District Magistrate-Kolhapur
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate

Chairman

- 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Kolhapur,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur

Member

- 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur

Convener

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur in the local newspaper in daily Pudhari for Marathi and in national newspaper in daily Times of India for English on 06-05-2025. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

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

1. Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Kolhapur;
2. General Manager, District Industries Center, Kolhapur;
3. Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur;

4. Hon. Principal Secretary, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
5. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Opp. Cineplanet, Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-32.
6. Sub Divisional Officer, Panhala, Dist: Kolhapur.
7. Regional Officer, MPC Board, Udyog Bhavan, Kolhapur.
8. Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Panhala, Dist: Kolhapur.
9. Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Shahuwadi, Dist: Kolhapur.
10. Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Shahuwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur;
11. Grampanchayat, Parali/Sonurle/Nandari/Ghungur/ Ambarde/Nandgaon Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur;

Convener informed that till date 953 suggestions / objections have been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Kolhapur 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 & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai 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 Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, the Project Environmental Consultant made a presentation about the project and the project's Environmental Management Plan.

Environmental Advisor stated that the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Government of India, has approved the mining plan of the proposed project on 31-07-2020.

Proposed project area is 7.54 hectares (forest land) and a project with a production capacity of 1,35,000 tons per annum of Bauxite will be developed in the mining area.

As per the directives of the Central Pollution Control Board, 33% of the total project area will be developed as green belt.

Project requires 30 skilled and unskilled personnel and priority will be given to locals for employment in the project. However, the establishment of the said project will greatly increase indirect business in the area.

Project proposes to undertake several activities under its Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) initiative. For this, it is proposed to allocate 3.20 lakhs for the implementation of the issues raised in the public hearing, which is 2% of the budget provision of the capital expenditure.

Also, the proposed capital expenditure for environmental management of the proposed project is ₹ 75.0 lakhs and the recurring expenditure will be ₹ 32.0 lakhs

The project proposes to undertake various activities under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. The total budget is Rs. 15 lakhs and will be spent in the affected villages only.

A Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared as per the Wildlife Act and specific funds have been reserved for direct and indirect participation.

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

After completion of the Presentation, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any suggestions or objections in respect of the proposed project in environmental angle only. While informing your views, first tell your name and residence-village name. If the views/points are raised before by any participant, then it is not necessary to raise the point again. So that many people can be given opportunity to raise their views, suggestions or objections. While raising suggestion/objections, raise your hand, so that opportunity can be given.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the suggestions/objections raised are recorded through video. Also minutes of the meeting

will be prepared in English and Marathi. Hence, those who desires to raise suggestions/objections, raise your hand to make available mike.

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 Ramdas Tukaram Lavangare, Residence – Among Parali Mandurwadi, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

I thank Administration for giving me an opportunity to register my suggestions/objections in the Environment public hearing organized regarding the Bauxite Mining at Parli.

There were 19 mines operating in Kolhapur District for the last two-three decades. Those 19 mines have been closed. Two mines are still operating. Some mines were closed as they fell within the "Environmentally Sensitive Zone". Some mines have been closed due to court orders. Even if so, why Government Administration still implementing all the procedures to grant approval for new mining projects?

Second Point:-

Government of India has declared that 51 villages in Shahuwadi taluka fall under "Environmental Sensitive Zone." (ESZ).

Sonurle village is included in the "Environmental Sensitive Zone (ESZ)". Sonurle village is only 2-3 km away from the project site.

No mining is allowed within a radius of 25-30 km of the Environmentally Sensitive Zone (ESZ). However, there is a proposal for mining activities here. 80% of the people in this area are engaged in agriculture. For mining, deforestation is carried at large. Due to which various animals and birds in the forest will be displaced and they will have to come to human settlements.

Farmers here will have to suffer unnecessarily from those wild animals. Villagers here will be in danger from those wild animals. Government Administration needs to take serious note of it.

Now to clarify about Bauxite, the places where bauxite mining has been planned. Study carried of all those areas, it is found that rainfall capacity of the area before Bauxite mining decreases after mining.

In that area, 3200 – 3500 mm. of rainfall was falling, while after the excavation, the area is receiving 2200-2500 mm. of rainfall. It is found that there has been a decrease of one thousand to twelve hundred mm.

Next Point:-

Shahuwadi Taluka was declared to have 68% forest area. Due to deforestation for various mines, now only 37% forest area remains in Shahuwadi Taluka. This also needs to be considered seriously.

Environmental Consultant of the project has indicated in the presentation that only 30 (thirty) people will get direct employment in the proposed mining project.

Government needs to consider the reality that we are going to damage more than 7.50 hectares of environmental area to provide employment opportunities to just thirty people.

The next important point is that this forest wealth that we have received is a gift from nature. Our ancestors have conserved and protected this rich forest wealth. Preserving that forest wealth is the need of the hour. Therefore, I am expressing my complete opposition to the proposed bauxite project.

2) Shri Yuvraj Ananda Patil, Residence – Ghugur, Taluka – Shahuwadi, Distict – Kolhapur – Project Proponent:-

As Project Promoter of this project and a local villager, I am sharing information here regarding the Parli Bauxite Block. The Parli Bauxite Block was approved through public auction in 2019 as per the directives of the Central Government.

For it, first of all, 7-8 permissions have to be obtained. This Environment Public Hearing is being held as a part of those various permissions. Government is of the opinion that a public consultation and a resolution of the concerned Gram Panchayat should be obtained where the project is going to be commissioned.

Resolution supporting this project has been approved by the Gram Sabha. It was submitted to the Government. After that, Committee of the District Sub-Conservator of Forests, Hon. District Collector has approved the FRS certificate. Only after that, this project has been planned. Some anti-project groups are deliberately misleading, spreading rumors that the proposed project falls under "ESZ", a "Tiger Reserve Area".

So today, I am reading out the approval granted by the Government to all the people, journalists, and anti-project groups who have come here for the Environment Public Hearing. Information has been submitted to the Government for the villages of Ghungur, Amberde, Parli and Shahuwadi. A copy of this is being made available to all journalists.

If the anti-project groups are alleging that some villages are in sensitive areas, they should prove it. Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that only the issues be raised.

Project Proponent informed that anti-project groups are informing local people that Parli village falls in the "Vishalgad Conservation Area." However, Government approval states that Parali village is not in the "Vishalgad Conservation Area". Similarly, the question of whether the "Sahyadri Tiger Reserve" is within 10 km of the project site, the answer is NO. Is the said project falls under Western Ghats Conservation Area? The answer is NO. Is it in the Sahyadri Conservation Area? Answer is No.

Project Proponent further informed that this is a government approval. If this information is false, then you can file a criminal case against me.

Hence, I am requesting anti-project group to stop the hoaxes. We, on behalf of Janshakti, will thwart these attempts to mislead the people and prevent the project from happening.

Also, the letter states that the villages of Ghughur, Amberde, Parli, Savarde, Parkhad, Taluka-Shahuwadi do not fall within the Environmentally Sensitive Zone (ESZ) from the proposed project.

There is a letter stating that these villages are not in the "Eco-Sensitive Zone" and "Buffer Zone" area from the proposed project. If the anti-project group desires a copy of it, it will be made available.

According to Government report, at what distance from the proposed project will the villages of Ghughur, Amberde, Parli, Savarde, Parkhad, Taluka-Shahuwadi be located in a "national sanctuary", "national park" or "protected area" and at what distance will excavation not be carried out?

Answer is - we will complete and operate the project as per the directives of the Central Government.

Project Proponent said that the forest proposal of Parli village has been submitted to the Central Government under the Forest Act, 1980. A copy of it has been submitted to the District Dy. Conservator of Forests, District Collector. The project site should be located one km away, while Parli village is 32 km away from the project site. It is mandatory to be 10.0 km away from the National Park. While Parli village is 32 km away.

Project site should be 1.0 km away from Chandoli Sanctuary and Sahyadri Tiger Project, here it is away by 32.0 kilometer.

Now the question is of Western Ghat Conservation Area. Sonurle village is under ESZ. But Law provides that mining can be carried in a village even if it is within the boundary of an Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

Proposal of the project is submitted as per the directives as issued by the Central Government from time to time.

For this project, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra State has ordered that even if the term of the Letter of Intent has expired, public hearing and any work of the Forest Department should not be stopped. I was present in that meeting and my name is in the minutes of the meeting.

Also, Terms of Reference (ToR) granted to the project is upto 2026. Despite any objections raised by the anti-project group, a public hearing has been held legally.

Project Proponent said that proposed project will be implemented with the power of the people, following all the prescribed permissions, terms and conditions of the government.

3) Shri Sandeep Gopal Kesarkar, Residence-Ghugur, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

Project Proponent has just informed that they have documents approved by the concerned government departments.

Hence, I request Government to direct the anti-project group and the project promoter group come face to face, prepare a report and submit it to Government.

Also, Environmental Public Hearings are held to inform the public about the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project and the measures to be taken to address them.

Therefore, it is expected that the meeting will be attended by villagers from the affected villages. However, people from outside the project-affected villages have come here.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the view that this is a public hearing and it is not appropriate to prevent any person from attending this meeting. However, you can raise the issue.

Shri Sandeep Gopal Kesarkar expressed the opinion that they should not be allowed to raise suggestions, ideas, and objections because local people will be the ones who will suffer from this proposed project.

Therefore, local people should be allowed to register suggestions and objections. Chairman of the Committee suggested to raise suggestions/objections in respect of the proposed project in environmental angle only.

Shri Kesarkar said that to keep the eco-friendly atmosphere, Central Government has made mandatory to develop 33% green belt. The environment in Kolhapur district is conducive for forest growth.

With only 14% of the forest area remaining in Kolhapur District after deforestation for mines, it is important to seriously consider what will happen if deforestation is resumed for this Bauxite Mining.

I completely oppose this project.

Shri Kesarkar requested Environment Public Hearing Committee that the Members of the Environment Public Hearing Committee are highly educated. The people here are not. However, our feelings should be taken into account.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that at the beginning of the meeting Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that this Committee does not sanction the project, does not reject the project and does not recommend the project. This Committee is constituted to note the suggestions or objections by the local people in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Video shooting of the meeting is going on. Suggestions/Objections as raised by the participants are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be prepared in Marathi and English and it will be submitted to Government. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly. Hence, it is requested to raise the suggestions/objections calmly.

4) **Sou. Vandana Sanjay Khot, Sarpanch, Parali Gram Panchayat, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-**

I fully support the proposed Parli Bauxite Project.

5) Shri Dattatraya Appaji Khot, Ex. Dy. Sarpanch, Parali Grampanchayat, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

I am against this proposed project till death. I have brought water supply system in Kasarwadi village, block no. 223. I have letters from the Ground Water Department stating that there is ample water supply.

But now Present Sarpanch has said that there is no water even after digging 300 meters. However, it is a sincere request that a Committee from the concerned Government department should come and inspect this immediately.

6) Shri Mahipati Shankar Khot, Ex. Member, Parali Grampanchayat, Residence-Khotwadi, Parli Village, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

This project will not cause any harm to Parli village. People of the localities/Bastis in Parli village will get employment opportunities. However, I appeal to all the villagers to support this project.

7) Shri Sakharam Shankar Khot, Residence – Kasarwadi, Parli Gaon, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

I am opposed to the proposed project. Kasarwadi is a small village located in the foothills of the Sahyadri Mountains. The problems that will be faced by the village due to the proposed project will not be as severe as those of Khotwadi. Also, only thirty people will get employment. I am opposed to the project.

Shri Sakharam Khot said that Sahyadri is not just a mountain, but a bio-geographical, biological and hydrological system. Groundwater Laterite soil surface basalt rock works to store rainwater. After it is extracted, rainwater flows away.

The water will not percolate into the ground, due to which the quantity of water stored in the ground will decrease. The springs, streams, and rivers in the area will dry up. There will be adverse effects on agriculture. The wells in the area will dry up. Due to the decrease in the quantity of water, agriculture will suffer.

The livelihood of the residents of the area is completely dependent on agriculture. If this project will provide only 30% employment, where will the rest of the people go? Environmental Public Hearing Committee/Government should seriously consider this.

I fully oppose this project.

8) Shri Pandurang Chandrappa Lavangare, Residence -Mandurwadi Among Parli, Tal-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

Project Proponent should carry out Mining in Block No. 223 of Parli village and provide employment opportunities in this remote area. Malhar Minerals should develop this area. However, the company should start the said project after obtaining the permissions of all the government departments.

Fully support the proposed project.

9) Shri Jeevan Mansingh Savara, Residence-Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-

Project Proponent has submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. In it, Environmental Consultant has stated that the levels of PM - 2.5 and PM -10 in the air are low.

However, according to the guidelines of the World Health Organization, the level of PM-2.5 should be 5.0-micron cubic meter. But in the proposed mining area, it is more than 50.0-micron cubic meter, which is ten times more.

So, the question is being asked to Government as to how it accepted this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

When this level exceeds, respiratory diseases in mining areas increase threefold. This is the conclusion of the Karnataka Pollution Control Board. So why their opinion is not sought?

Then IIT, Mumbai has reported that if mining is done on slopes of more than 30° degrees, the risk of landslide increases by 60%. This mountain is steep at an angle of 45° to 90° degrees. If Bauxite Mining is carried, this entire mountain will come down. This issue has not been considered.

Then, according to a study by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, the groundwater level in the mining area decreases by 60-70%. If there is going to be such a change in the groundwater level, from where will Project Proponent get water?

Project Proponent is verbally saying that there will be no impact on water sources. The sources of the water should be clarified first.

Mining removes the organic layer on top of the soil, which reduces the soil's infiltration capacity. The water runs off and the groundwater level that was raised will eventually run off.

Forests keep the atmosphere balanced by absorbing CO₂ from the air. If forests are cut down, CO₂ will increase. However, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should check what the AQI is at the project site. Delhi and Mumbai have an AQI of 300 to 500. People from abroad are saying how much air pollution is there in India.

There are over 7,400 plant species in the mountains. There are over 508 bird species. There are 180 amphibian species. There are 6,000 insect species. Why aren't they considered?

Goa State Mining Department had given a letter of permission to the Project Proponent to mine here. The same Goa Mining Department has a report that 60% of the springs near the mines are disappearing. So, do the Project Proponent desires to make our springs disappear?

CAC Report 2011 – Many children were born with birth defects after drinking bio-metal contaminated water due to mining activities in Orissa. This is much worse than the atomic bomb.

While the Indian government is effectively implementing a vaccination program, children here are being born with birth defects due to contaminated water.

Project Proponent has violated various Laws of India. They are as follows:-

- a) **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986-Clause 3 & 5;**
- b) **Bio-Diversity Act, 2002 – Clause 13;**
- c) **Forest Right Act, 2006 - Prior consent of Gram Sabha;**
- d) **EIA Notification, 2006 – Whole Hydrological, Geological Study Required -**

There is no water cycle report, no groundwater survey, and the number of trees mentioned in this project report is incorrect. As per International Norms, mining is prohibited in CBD Article Protection-1 zone.

It is necessary to preserve the carbon sink as per the Paris Agreement.

Project Proponent stated that the proposed project does not fall within an environmentally sensitive area, the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, or any other notified area.

However, as shown in the presentation, the “Eco-Sensitive Zone” boundary is from 0.1 to 4.0 meters. The Eco Sensitive Zone has a buffer zone of 10 km. However, Project Proponent said that there is no buffer zone. Since all the wrong information is being given, a criminal case will be registered against Project Proponent.

Instead of this project, we are providing information about three different projects that will benefit local people -

Projects like Agro-Forestry and Organic Farming, which increases income and prevents soil erosion can be implemented here.

Patgaon, which is recognized as “Honey Village”, produces large quantity of natural honey. Such project can be implemented here.

Also, Eco-Tourism project can be implemented here. Such projects have been started and successfully in operation at Sikkim, Gadchiroli, Kodgu-Karnataka.

Sahyadri is the heritage site of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It is a sacred place for the local people “like a temple”. If we lose the forest, we are also losing our future. However, the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra have to request Go No Mining Zone, No Mining Zone here.

Therefore, I am completely opposing this project.

At that time, the project promoters argued that the landslides that occurred were not caused by the removal of topsoil.

10)Shri Rambhau Parlikar, Entrepreneur, Social Worker, Residence-Parali village, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

The Malhar Minerals project is being implemented for the first time in our region and we should be proud of it. Also, entrepreneurs like me if join with this

group, employment will be created in this area through means of communication. The income generated from it will only benefit the local people. The resolution to approve the project by the Parli Gram Panchayat has been passed with an 80% majority. There is no doubt about this. Now the question is about employment.

So, since there is no employment here, the youth here are going to Kolhapur, Pune, Mumbai. They have to migrate. They will get employment in the village itself. However, there is a need for a project here.

11) Shri Sachin Kesarkar, Residence – Ghugurwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

I am against the entire project. Because our villages like Ghungghurwadi, Kasarwadi, Khotwadi, Mandlawadi, and Paratangale are getting water through siphon method. Due to the mine, the water coming through siphon method will be completely disrupted.

After mining for the project begins, the cows, pigs, and leopards from the nearby forest will come to the village. Just yesterday, a leopard entered Undri village and killed the village dogs. Now, if the mountain is cut down, all these wild animals will come to our village, our fields.

Government had approved the lake above Khotwadi. So why the lake is being cancelled and the project being built there? Build a lake there, plant trees there, develop a tourist destination like the Masai Plateau. This will create more employment there.

Project Proponent say that employment will be created there. If most advanced machinery is brought here, what kind of employment will be created?

On the contrary, this project will reduce the work of sugarcane cutting workers in Khotwadi and Ghuggunwadi. Because if a bore is dug in the upper part, the water at downside will be blocked. The water in our well has dried up.

Why don't people understand this? Bring other companies here, start new educational institutions. However, it is a humble request that Government take this issue seriously.

12) Shri Pandurang Shamrao Kandre, Residence-Madavkarwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

I fully support the proposed Project

13) Sou. Priyanka Sakharam Khot, Native-Kasarwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-

I am a resident of the area where the proposed project is to be built. There is a forest near my house. Project Proponent Madam does prevent us to collect the wood which falls in the forest. So why are we giving them permission for

bauxite? We have not been allowed to bring firewood from the forest for the last two years. Nor are our women allowed to go there.

Now Project Proponent say there is no tiger here, but a few days ago, Project Proponent Madam was sitting with tiger cubs in our village whole day, so how did cub come? I am completely against this project.

14) Shri Mahadev Tukaram Bade, Residnece-Ganewadi among the Savarde Budruk, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-

I was also present at the public hearing in 2017. I was also present in April and now I am present at the public hearing in June.

I would like to ask Environment Public Hearing Committee Members and all the local citizens present at this public hearing whether the bison is a friend or an enemy of the farmers, especially the farmers?

The people present said that they were enemies. Now, Environment Public Hearing Committee memebtrs who have come via the Wagh Bil route, the farmers do not do any work to protect their crops under the Wagh Bil area upto Panchganga river.

However, from Wagh Bil area to Kasarwadi, all the farmers, whether it is sugarcane or monsoon crops, stays awake all night to protect the crops with lanterns and lamps by bisons. If we want to stop this day and night vigil of these farmers, then the habitat of the bison should be planned. The habitat of bison is Sahyadri Tiger Project, Eco-Sensitive Zone or Sanctuary. These bisons and other animals have escaped from the sanctuary and entered farmers' fields here. If this project is implemented, the burden on the forest department will be reduced and they will go back to their habitat permanently.

The point was raised here just now that the Sahyadri is our temple. Even though the project has not been completed, Project Proponent has helped in constructing temples in the villages. So, the rock that is to be quarried for the project, there is no vegetation on that rock. It is red sandstone. My village has been adjacent to that mountain since childhood.

I have been raising goats since childhood. This red rock is completely rocky. Digging it will only lead to the development of this area. This is a natural wealth and a country like Australia has developed due to natural wealth only.

So my anti-project brothers should answer why we should stay behind. I fully support the project.

15) Shri Sudhir Ranjan, Civil Engineer:-

Our Radhanagari and Shahuwadi areas have immense natural wealth. The farmers have no idea that once that wealth is destroyed, it cannot be restored.

This project raises the issue of Bio-Diversity. The tiger reserve passes through there. The survey and presentation that has been done for this project has been done by a private organization from Nagpur. They have not studied this area.

Once the bio-diversity here is destroyed, it cannot be restored, it cannot be recreated. If the red soil is removed, the mountains are removed, they cannot be restored. Scientists have not yet been able to study landslides. We cannot solve this maths of nature. It is necessary to preserve the structure of nature or the biological wealth that it has.

Considering the rich nature here, if concessions and incentives are given to businesses like tourism and agro-tourism here, the local youth will get employment opportunities. If mining starts, the damage will be permanent. It cannot be repaired or restored. So, I am opposing this project.

16) Shri Shantaram Ramchandra Patil, Village-Nandari, Chairman, Vikas Seva Society:-

I am supporting this project. Our village has given 100% full support. A resolution has been presented to support our village. Project Proponent has worked very hard for this project. However, we have no objection for commissioning of this project.

17) Sou. Deepaka Deepak Dalvi, Residnece – Parkhandale, Member, Parkhandale Gram Panchayat, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

I am completely opposed to this project. Because this project will have a negative impact on the environment. There will be pollution. Public life will be disrupted.

In the meeting, it was informed that many villages have passed resolutions in the Gram Sabha in support of the project. However, in our Parkhandale village, not a single gram sabha/meeting has been held for this resolution.

Also, the resolutions that have been approved in the Gram Panchayat office of other villages have been given letters of approval by the Sarpanchs themselves without informing the members and without passing resolution. Therefore, we are completely opposed to this project.

She presented a poem for the Sahyadri mountain ranges.

18) Shri Bhimrao Patil, Chairman, Parkhandale Society, Worker of Mansing Dada:-

On behalf of Mansingh Dada, the Parkhandale Society is extending full support to this project.

19) Shri Tanaji Lavte, Mandurwadi by Parakandale Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-

I am fully opposing this project. Because before conducting the survey, a condition was imposed that the survey must be conducted within a radius of 10.0 km from the project site in the presence of the local people.

We, local people will show where the Panhala Pavankhind highway is, where our religious places are, where Perennial water springs. Here, one person of Project Proponent Group said that there is not a single plant on the rock. So now we can immediately get up from here and go up and show them that there plants on the rock. We stay in the forest. Hence how can persons who are wandering by car can show us our forest?

Hence, survey should be carried in presence of local people. Until then, minutes of the meeting should not be submitted to Government.

I oppose this project.

20) Shri Sanjay Khot, Member, Ghungur Gram Panchayat, Joint Secretary, BJP Shahuwadi Taluka:-

I fully support this project. Those who are going to mine on the mountain, there is stone there. After the stone is removed, there will be soil there. Project Proponent is going to plant trees there. However, I and the majority of the people here fully support this project.

21) Shri Amrut Dadu Jadhav, Residence-Kasarwadi Village, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

Our water is a gift from nature. The Gram Panchayat has passed a resolution in support of the project. My only demand is that we and our children should not have to wander for water.

Hence, I oppose this project.

22) Balabai Narayan Sutar:-

There is no reason to oppose this project. However, we should not hinder the project by speaking inbetween. Everyone should support it. There is no such thing as one person benefiting and another person dying from this project. Also, we should not worry about the animals on the mountain coming down, because animals come down with their own minds.

23) Amruta Uttam Pawar, Residence – Savrewadi, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

What will we tell our children that we allowed this Bauxite Project to be done by destroying the environment? Thinking about the future of our children, we are opposing this project and will continue to oppose it forever.

24) Sou. Shubhangi Kamble, Present Sarpanch, Ghugur, Grampanchayat, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

While expressing opinions about this project, five villages come to mind: Ghugur, Savrewadi, and Parli etc. They are villages at Dongarwadi.

This village is likely to be rich in minerals like Bauxite, which are of great importance, benefiting the country and society, and the company established by the village's son has also received approval from the Central and State Government. Also, employment will be created at the local village level. Due to the mining of this bauxite mineral, the government and the village will get royalty. Many local truckers and machine operators will get work. The opponents are opposing only out of political sentiment. As Sarpanch of this village, I request them to join this development stream and pay attention to how the village will develop. As the Sarpanch of the village, I am fully supporting this project.

25) Sou. Hakanbai Tukaram Jadhav, Residence – Kasarwadi, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

We reject this project for our children. We have lived and died, yet this Bauxite Project is of no use to us. We want the truth of our Goddess Kalbadevi to remain. We will definitely take out a march against this project by telling Goddess Totaradevi.

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

I am first Environmentalist in India to support Mining activity. Government has permitted to take this mining activity. If mining is loss, then Government will loss 400 crore every year.

Employment opportunities will be created and whatever revenue will get, I request Project Proponent to take precautionary measures to control pollution i.e. whatever water, air and noise pollution. I am requesting Panel Committee to recommend MoEF & CC to give unconditional permission to this industry.

27) Vaidya Hari Kondiba Khot, Residence-Ghungurwadi, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

I am the son-in-law and resident of Ghungur village. I am also the son-in-law of Maharashtra. Whatever is happening is happening very bad. Government should take note of this. You should study how high Panhala and Parli villages are. Here, water does not reach 400 feet, but on the mountain, water reaches 40 feet. The government should take note of this.

There are 7,90,000 medicinal plants in this forest. These plants work to increase the life of human beings. And you have planned to destroy the plants. It should be noted. I am against this project.

28) Shri Nivrutti Patil, Residence – Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

My childhood was spent in Ghungur village. My family has been farming since my grandfather's time, and the foundation of Ghungur village is agriculture and farming.

The second thing is that food must be grown. Among the issues raised by participants at the meeting, they suggested tourism development as an alternative to this project. Like Patgaon, develop another village as "Honey Village," producer of natural honey. Develop such business.

Also, if the lakes in the surrounding villages are developed as tourist destinations, the local people will get good employment.

I was at the public hearing in 2017 and this project has been opposed since 2017. So why haven't those who opposed it so far set up alternative industries here? That is, we don't want to do anything, we don't want to let anyone else do it.

I support this project 100%.

29) Shri Ramesh Pimpale, Ex Dy.Sarpanch, Parkandale, Present Member, Pakandal Grampanchayat, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District –Kolhapur:-

We have been opposing this project for many years. Because the issues of our cultural sites of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, our forests, our forest areas here, and water supply for the people of the village have been discussed.

The reason for the opposition to the project is that some people here say that we will get job. So, what kind of employment will be generated? Today, when the Government is implementing programme like MANREGA, if we want to build toilets in the village, we have to bring people from Karnataka. People have to be brought from all over Karnataka for the well digging and Gharkul scheme. If the issue is employment, then no one in the village will die of hunger.

Now the question is about the mining industry, if you bring any other industry, we are ready to give even the land of cow grazing . But our forest area, our wild animals, our agriculture should not be harmed or suffer from pollution under any circumstances.

Also, the Bauxite extracted from this mine will go to another State, as there is no industry here to further process and produce any material of Bauxite.

People from nearby villages like Udgir went elsewhere for industry. Has this improved the standard of living? Their lands at Udgir have also been destroyed.

The forest of Udgir has been destroyed. Just yesterday, a leopard ate a girl from Dhangarwada. All the animals in the forest have started coming into human habitation. This proposed project will cause the same problem to our villages here.

Therefore, we are against this project.

30) Shri Sarjerao Giri, Director, Parkande Seva Sastha, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-

There are three localities in Parkande village, where cow grazing plot/Gairan No. 735, 414A, is completely cow grazing plot/Gairan. Trees were planted there. But today, in reality, there is not even a single acre of forest. There are encroachments from all sides.

The second thing is that there is no Gram Panchayat office in our village for the last ten years. The situation of our village is very bad.

Also, Government has brought a water supply scheme from the Save river by spending two crores. It is running smoothly. 70-80% of the people in the village of Parakande are ex-servicemen. Government has waived their house rent/property tax. The Gram Panchayat has no source of income.If this project is implemented, the Gram Panchayat will get revenue, which will enable social schemes in the village to be implemented.

Therefore, I support the project.

If this project is implemented, the Gram Panchayat will get revenue, which will enable social schemes in the village to be implemented. Therefore, I support the project.

31) Shri Anil Dattu Dalvi, Residence – Parkandale, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

This is Environment Public Hearing for the proposed Bauxite Project. We have brought a water scheme in the village, but we get water a block a day. and that too just five big pots.

My request is that this Environment Public Hearing is arranged at a remote village, it should be arranged at Parkhande village only. Organize Environment Public Hearings in each village and listen the views of the people of the each village. After that, a decision should be made. Now look at the Parkandale village, the women are working in the fields, all the Parkandales are living only on rice crops. Herds of Bisons are coming. Herds of bisons come here and they destroy the fields. After destroying the forest, perhaps it will be our turn to tie bison with a chain and keep them in our cowshed. Don't bring that day to us.

We oppose the project.

32) Shri Rangrao Krishna Kite, Residence – Savarde Budurk, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District -Kolhapur:-

I have worked as a Sarpanch in the village for twenty-five years. The development of the village has never been left inadequate. I have been in politics for the past fifty years.

I fully support this project.

33) Sou. Rukmini Rajvardhan Sarnobat, On Behalf KIT College of Engineering :-

We have come here as environmentalists and engineers. Here we want to benefit both groups. We are not against development. Similarly, we also want to look after the interests of the farmer brothers. Just as our father is an umbrella of our house, the forest area here is our umbrella. So, if you are going to take away your father's umbrella, then you want to know the company's plan.

Also, are local farmers aware of how the red mud waste will be disposed of in the proposed project? The wastewater generated in the project will seep into our surface water and also into our groundwater.

So, does everyone have any idea whether the water will remain drinkable after the wastewater is mixed in with the production from this project? It is necessary to clarify here what Project Promoter's plan is in this regard.

Also, the fertility of the area's agriculture will decrease due to this project. I am not on the side of any company, nor am I on the side of the anti-project group. We want to find a middle ground. We want development, but we also don't want to destroy the environment.

As one element of society decreases, it has an impact elsewhere. Deforestation here disrupts the natural cycle of various animals in the forest. We must also think about future generations. Information on measures should be provided for this.

34) Shri Shivprasad Patil, Residence – Ghungur, Taluka-Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-

I am a student of KIT, Kolhapur. The suggestions made by the Mrs. Sarnobat are correct. The proposed bauxite project block project should be constructed without any harm to the environment.

This project can create many indirect industries after it is started. Suppose someone does not have the capacity to buy JCB trucks, but they can create many industries related to it. I support this project.

Chairman, Public Hearing Committee on Environment appealed to the attendees that if there are any new issues, they should be raised. No comments should be made on previous issues.

35) Shri Tanaji Maruti Ravande, Chairman, Sahyadri Paryavaran Bahu Uddeshiya Sastha:-

My point is that gat no. 223, all of them fall in the Western Ghats region. There is a lot of bio-diversity there, there are forests. There are many species of birds, animals.

There are water springs less than ten feet apart on all sides of the cliff. Therefore, we oppose this project. Politicians here say that 25%, 80% of the people are behind me. So, has anyone come now? That person has come alone, but they say that 80% of the people are behind me.

Now the agricultural work has started. Now the sowing of rice has started. Everyone should think about this too. We have no enmity with anyone here. The same breath we breathe, the same breath the project officials and people will take. To survive, we have to cultivate in the fields. There is no benefit in destroying the forest, now only 18% of the forest is left in Maharashtra.

Years ago, 68% of the forests were in Maharashtra. It have been destroyed by politicians. Our people here are illiterate, so they do not understand the harm of deforestation. Shivaji Maharaj is our pride. I swear by our king that I will not remove a single grain of soil here.

36) Shri Pandurang Tukaram Khot, Ghungurwadi, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District-Kolhapur:-

I am speaking as a citizen. I attended three hearings. I stand in full support of this project.

I fully support the project.

37) Professor (Dr.) Manjusha Netradeep Sarnobat, KIT College of Engineering:-

I am in the Environmental Engineering department in an Engineering College. I have technical questions.

Information should be provided on the air pollution that will be caused by this project, the Particulate Matter that will be released, the wastewater generated

in the project, the wastewater that will be mixed with water and soil, and the processing of the wastewater and where it will be done.

As an Environmental Engineer, I need to know this. Although this was expected to be shown in the Presentation at the public hearing, this information should be provided.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that all the suggestions/objections have been noted. It will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting, written suggestions/objections and Revised EIA report will be submitted after approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. An Expert Committee takes further decision.

38) Shri Deepak Ananda Patil, Chairman, Shahuwadi-Panhala Prayavaran Bachav Kruti Samiti:-

I have listened to all the public hearings in full. The objections and responses have been heard peacefully. However, the locals should form a committee for this proposed project.

Also, when considering your Village, Taluka, District, State and Country, if you have national wealth, then you should think about it. If we can produce aluminum sheet for weapons, it will contribute to our national wealth. Bauxite is a porous rock. The flow of water is not stored, but is stored in the soil below it. Project Proponent is requested to cover the Bauxite with soil and plant trees on it after extracting it.

The state and the village will receive income in the form of royalty from national assets. It will be spent only for the development of our village.

This project can increase indirect business in the area and provide employment opportunities to the locals. So, it would be right for all the Gram Panchayats to demand water supply and health services from this royalty revenue. It would be appropriate to demand that villages be provided with agricultural implements.

If an industry that processes raw materials from bauxite mines is set up in Shahuwadi taluka, it will create nearly five thousand jobs.

However, by supporting this project, the interests of the society, the state and the country should be looked after. However, everyone should support this project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants that the same issues are being raised. However, if there are new issues, they should be raised. Similarly, those who have written suggestions/objections should submit them immediately.

39) Advocate Mansingh Savare, Social Worker- Ghungur, Village, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur :-

Welcome and congratulations to the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Government Administration. We have presented our issues regarding the proposed project of the Project Proponent in both the public hearings. However, the same issues are coming up.

Point No.1:-

Whenever a company comes, it is expected that the local people are informed about the project, made aware of the advantages and disadvantages of the project to be established, and a resolution is passed in the Gram Sabha. This has not happened anywhere.

Point No.2:-

Because even though the company promised to plant trees and did, according to scientific experience so far, trees do not take root in mined areas.

Point No.3:-

Even though the Gram Panchayats' claim that the proposed project will provide job opportunities, not a single Gram Panchayat has prepared its labour budget since 2005. This is the tragedy of the Gram Panchayat Administration. Because the Gram Panchayat Administration has no role in providing employment even though it is possible. Every year, a labour budget is prepared and its plan is prepared.

Then why not provide employment, why is employment provided only after taking the company's soil only. The labour budget in every Gram Panchayat is in lakhs of crores of rupees. The budget is taken by the people of Karnataka, but the local Marathi people do not come forward.

Point no.4:-

There is a highway from Panhalgad to Vishalgad. It is "historical part" and is under the control of the Archaeological Department. No one can deny it.

Although we are all the descendants of King, this is a sincere request not to break the royal path of King. Now trekking will start there from 12th July. Lakhs of people will come.

For this, employment has already been created. Because of this tourism. So what is the employment of 30 people from this project? Lakhs of people come here, if eco-tourism is developed there, then thousands of employment opportunities will automatically be created.

Point No.5 -

The first thing you see between Panhalgad and Vishalgad is the Masai plateau. Plants bloom there like the Kas Pathar. People from Pune and Mumbai come to live there, which creates employment there. So let's increase eco-tourism like this.

Point No.6:-

There is a pillar standing there of the Goddess Virgin. It needs to be studied. If you hit each stone, it makes a different sound. Once this natural heritage is gone, it will not come back. We must preserve it.

Then comes the Bandari Khindi. There is the Jambheshwar temple. Lakhs of people come there to have darshan of the deity. There is a crowd there every Sunday. Isn't this employment?

Point No.7:-

Next is Mandalai Devi. Next is Totrai Devi, next is Pavadai Devi, next is Pavankhind.

If the people there had not supported us, our King would not have reached Vishalgad. However, I request you not to destroy this path.

Point no.8:-

There is a piped water supply scheme in Ghughur, Sawarewadi and many other villages. So how will water be planned in many villages there? Now we are drinking water of here only.

At the same time, this water getting from mountains is also used for agriculture. Apart from this, it is also being supplied to all the wild animals and domestic animals.

Point No.9:-

पूर्वीची शेती ही आडव्या पाट्याने पाणी चालायचे. त्याच्याखाली तळे असायचे, त्यास मराठीत ढबळ म्हणायचे. In the past, agriculture used to use horizontal channels for water. There were ponds under them, which are called dhabal in Marathi.

Water was stored in that dhabal and all the crops were grown. Now the Government's plan for wells came. Wells were dug. The water in the dhabal went into the well at a depth of 30 feet.

Government asked to drill a borewell from 30 feet, then they did. Water went down to 100 feet. Today there is no water even at 250 feet. Due to the project, we will not even get drinking water in the next five years.

Point No.10:-

There are farm ponds in the forest, forest ponds, a seepage pond. There is a dam at Sonurlya village. It will dry due to the project.

On the other side, excavation work is going on in Pavdai. The water from the forest used to flow into the Sonurlya dam. That stream is now dry. Our Kalkawan stream, its water is coming down. Do we want to divert this agricultural and drinking water?

Point No.11:-

Wild animals will attack humans. What are you going to do about wild animals? Today's letter contains news that a leopard killed a village dog. Because there is no food left for them in the forest. In the last ten years, there has been a lot of deforestation. Trees have been cut down. More trees will be cut down for the project.

Medicinal valued plants will be destroyed. Wild vegetables will be destroyed. There will be water pollution, air pollution. So how will these animals be managed? We cannot restrict the movement of animals. However, we do not want this bauxite project.

Point No.12:-

There will be serious respiratory diseases. The health of the local people will be affected. Just as the Sarpanch should take care of everyone in the village, it is also necessary to take care of all the animals in the forest, all the elements of the forest.

Here, Chairman of the Committee appealed to raise only points.

Point No.13:-

Advocate Savara said that today, bauxite mining in Udgir had been going on for thirty years. It was taken away. Even today, the village has no road. Even today, there is no hospital, no employment. People residing there have developed respiratory problems, they have to leave the village.

Today is the Dhopeswar project. We went and met those people. The young people in the family have gone to Mumbai for earning daily bread. Old people staying alone at home are sick. If they want to take money from here and spend it on the hospital, we don't want such an industry.

Road accidents will increase, there will be irreparable damage to nature. Company has already committed deforestation. A case is pending against the company at the Kale court.

Trees have been cut down like chickens. We have its photos, video shooting, Panchnama. Acid was poured on them. However, these matters should be taken seriously.

Point No.14:-**Pets and Bio-Diversity -**

All the domestic animals, including goats, go to graze in the forest.

There will be huge losses in the agricultural business. The dust from the road will cause respiratory diseases. The project will cause dust for twelve months. There is no water in the forest due to deforestation, so they come to drink water from sugarcane. The first right to water in the forest belongs to the wild animals. We also brought that down by siphoning.

No Gram Panchayat thought of laying pipes and building a tank there.

There is Nandari Dam here. Tourism is happening there.

Point No.15:-

The project is illegal. World Health Organization and two international laws have been violated. 4-5 laws of the central government have been violated. Also, more than 25 laws of the state government have been violated.

Point No.16:-

Gat No. 223 is on the top at mountain. Soil there goes into our Sakhri river. From Sakhri river, Mankarnika river, from there Kasari river, from there Panchganga river. Panchganga river has not been yet cleaned despite spending thousands of crores. He appealed Chief Minister, Clean Panchganga river, we will allow Bauxite.

Almost all the villages have not implemented Pollution-free Panchganga Plan, Plastic Waste Management, Sewage Management. Open defecation in the villages flows into the river through all the streams. Tree plantation has not been done. An initiative was taken to plant "Hundred Trees". It was not done as per the Supreme Court order of 2016. Bauxite mining has not received permission from the Forest Department in the past and to this day.

40) Sou. Pradgnya Yuvraj Kamble, Residence – Sonurle, Taluka – Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur:-

Many people here have objected to the Bauxite project. The project will provide employment to the men and children of the family. Because there is no project here, the son or husband comes home at 10 pm. There are wild boars and wild pigs coming on the road. Every day while going to the fields for grazing, one has to take life in his hands due to wild boars.

The incident that happened the day before yesterday was that a man who had gone to vigil in fields was killed by a wild boar. Due to this, agriculture cannot be done properly. But Bauxite project will at least provide employment to local children.

Therefore, I fully support this bauxite project. While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that 953 suggestions/objections have been received regarding the proposed project. 40 people have expressed their views in the meeting.

Also, those who wish to submit a written statement should submit it after the meeting or at the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, near the District Collector's Office, Kolhapur.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee opined that while Administration has presented its position, the public here has undermined its position. Suggestions and objections raised in the meeting have been recorded and have been included in the minutes of the meeting.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the view that the local people definitely responded well to this public hearing. I thank all those present for the peaceful conduct of this public hearing and declare this public hearing concluded.

The Copies of total 2949 written representations in support of the proposed project and 1132 representations objecting of the proposed project along with e-mails are received on and before the public hearing with presentation copy are enclosed herewith. Enclosed suggestions/objections as received.



(Vidyasagar V. Killedar)

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



(Nikhil Gharat)

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



(Sanjay Teli)

Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur,
District – Kolhapur

