

**Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Expansion in Existing Project of Sugar Factory For Manufacturing From 5,000.0 TCD To 10,000.0 TCD; Co-Generation Plant From 19.5 MW To 30.0 MW And Molasses/Sugarcane Juice/Syrup Based Distillery Unit From 30.0 KLPD To 100.0 KLPD At Post – Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra Proposed By Project Proponent M/s Kumbhi Kasari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, At Post – Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District – Kolhapur ( 416 204), Maharashtra**

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The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Expansion in existing project of Sugar Factory for manufacturing From 5,000.0 TCD To 10,000.0 TCD; Co-Generation Plant From 19.5 MW To 30.0 MW And Molasses/Sugarcane Juice/Syrup Based Distillery Unit From 30.0 KLPD To 100.0 KLPD At Post – Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra Proposed By Project Proponent M/s Kumbhi Kasari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, At Post – Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District – Kolhapur ( 416 204), Maharashtra was held on Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> July , at 11.30 a.m. at project site, Project Proponent's Hall at Shetkari Sanskrutik Bhavan, Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur (416 204), Maharashtra.

Shri Pramod Mane, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee and Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur appealed participants who were standing in large number outside the hall to come inside and sit, as Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee just arrived.

Shri Promod Mane, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on behalf of District Collector Office, Kolhapur and Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur 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 Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, 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.

The convener, Public Hearing Committee on Environmental stated that as per the notification dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 and amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 and 14<sup>th</sup> august, 2018 of the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Government of India, New Delhi, it is mandatory to obtain environmental clearance for certain projects and for that is mandatory to hold a public hearing on Environmental matters. Since the said project falls under category B-1 as per the environment

notification 2006 and amended provisions, it is mandatory to obtain "Environmental Clearance" from the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai and for that it is mandatory to hold a public hearing on environmental matter.

The convener explained that the main purpose of the public hearing on environmental issues is to inform the public in the project area about the project and its impacts and the feelings of the public about it, to inform the public about the pollution control measures that are mandatory in the project, and to consider the objection/suggestions given by them.

Further, the convener, Public Hearing Committee on Environment stated that the project promoter, M/s. Kumbhi Kasari Cooperative Sugar Factory Limited, Post-Kuditre, Tal-Karveer, Dist-Kolhapur (416204), Maharashtra, had submitted an online application on 14.03.2024 to obtain preliminary approval (ToR) from the Ministry of environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi for the proposed expansion of sugarcane crushing capacity from 5,0000.0 tonnes per day to 10,000 tonnes per day, expansion of co-generation project from 19.5 MW to 30.0 MW and expansion of distillation project based on molasses/sugarcane juice/syrup based from 30.0 KL per day to 100.0 KL per day in their existing project. Accordingly, the Government of India granted online approval on 22.03.2024 and as per the terms and conditions therein, the application dated 23.04.2025 of the project promoters to organize a public hearing on the environment was submitted to the Headquarters of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai. Accordingly, the joint Director (Water), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai, vide letter no. 250424-FTS-0121 dated 24.04.2025, directed the Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur to start the process of organizing a public hearing on the environment. Accordingly, the Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur had requested the Hon. District Collector, Kolhapur to organize a public hearing on the environmental issues regarding the said project and the Hon. District Collector, Kolhapur approved the organization of the public hearing on the environmental issues on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 11.30 am at the Shetkari Sanskurtik Bhavan, at Factory Site, Village- Kuditre, Tal-Karveer, Dist-Kolhapur, (416204), Maharashtra. Thereafter, as per Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide Notification S.O.No.1533, dt.14.09.2006 and amended notification thereafter, The Hon. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide Office order No. E-49 of 2025, constituted a Public Hearing Committee as follows:

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 The Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur in the local newspaper in daily Pudhari for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Times of India for English on 09-06-2025 for the public, to raise 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 as under: -

1. District Collector, Collector Office, Kolhapur.
2. District Industries Center, Udyog Bhavan, Kolhapur.
3. Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Kolhapur.
4. Environment Department, Govt. Of Maharashtra, New Adm. Bldg., 15th Floor, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai.400 032.
5. Member Secretary, M.P.C. Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd floor, Opp.Cine planet, Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai – 32.
6. Sub- Divisional Officer, Karveer & Panhala, Dist.-Kolhapur.
7. Regional Office, MPC Board, Udyog Bhavan, Kolhapur.
8. Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Karveer, Tal. - Karveer, Dist.-Kolhapur.
9. Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Panhala, Tal. - Panhala, Dist.-Kolhapur.
- 10.The BDO, Panchayat Samiti office, Karveer, Tal. - Karveer, Dist.- Kolhapur.
11. The BDO, Panchayat Samiti office, Panhala, Tal. - Panhala, Dist.- Kolhapur.
12. Gramsevak/Gramvikas Adhikari, Kuditre, Vakare, Koparde, Sangrul, Adur, Tal- Karveer, Dist.-Kolhapur.
- 13.Gramsevak/Gramvikas Adhikari, Yevluj, Satarde, Tal- Panhala, Dist.- Kolhapur.

In continuation to that convener informed that 14 suggestions / objections have been received from various notified offices/by hand/by post and 03 suggestions/objections by email to Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Kolhapur regarding the proposed project. Also, 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 today 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. Also, Project Environment Consultant informed that Project Proponent M/s Kumbhi Kasari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, At Post – Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District – Kolhapur ( 416 204), Maharashtra has planned expansion in existing project of Sugar Factory for manufacturing From 5,000.0 TCD To 10,000.0 TCD; Co-Generation Plant From 19.5 MW To 30.0 MW And Molasses/Sugarcane Juice/Syrup Based Distillery Unit From 30.0 KLPD To 100.0 KLPD At Post – Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

As per Environment Notification 2006 As Amended the proposed project falls under B-1 [Sugar Production-5 (j); Distillery – 5 (g) and Co-generation Production – 1(d), 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. The Project Environmental Consultant provided detailed information about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the ongoing project and the proposed

project. As per the proposed project, the investment for the expansion of the sugar factory and co-generation project will be Rs. 200.25 crore, while the investment for the expansion of the distillery project will be Rs. 120.25 crore. Also, for environmental management, the amount is ear-marked of Rs 9.84 crore for sugar plant and for distillery project of Rs 56.57 crore. The sugar factory will operate for 120 days in a year (maximum 150 days), the co-generation project for the entire season + 50 days, and the distillery project for the whole year.

The Environmental Consultant informed us that the project is a ZLD - Zero Liquid Discharge project and is a project in the interest of farmers. The proposed project will provide direct employment for 100 people. However, this expansion project will significantly increase indirect business in the area. As per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board, 33% of the total project area, i.e. 22.34 hectares, will be developed as a green belt. For this, local trees will be planted as a priority. Also, Currently, 6,889 trees are planted in the existing green belt. In the proposed expansion project, 37,800 trees will be planted.

Also, he informed us that the project would help to improve the economic status of local farmers. Blending of the Ethanol produced in this project with petrol will help to save petrol and foreign exchange, as well as reduce air pollution. As well as this proposed project will help to conserve freshwater resources by recharging rainwater. This project is in the interest of the local area, the state of Maharashtra, and the country.

After the Presentation Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Grampanchayat Office, Koparde, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur has sent 13 suggestions/objections collectively of the villagers. They are – 1) Shri Bharat Bhikaji Patil; 2) Smt. Malubai Vilas Patil 3) Shri Sadashiv Patil 4) Shri Kumar Shamrao Patil; 5) Shri Jyotiram Ganapati Patil 6) Shri Dattatraya Ganapati Patil 7) Shri Sardar Raghunath Patil 8) Shri Vilas Raghunath Patil 9) Shri Mahadev Shankar Patil; 10) Shri Maruti Bhakaji Patil 11) Shri Ashok Gogaji Malekar 12) Shri Bajirao Maruti Patil 13) Shri Aasaram Narayan Patil. The issues mentioned are similar as they mainly involve pits created by the storage of spent washing and the discharge of untreated wastewater, from which wastewater flows into their fields. Also, during the last 4-5 years, due to the pits created by the mud, as well as the untreated wastewater being discharged outside the project area, the wastewater is flowing into their fields, making it difficult to work in agriculture. Also, the wells in the fields/area have been affected due to the discharge of wastewater mixed with spent wash. Due to this, they must

mostly bear this trouble every year in the months of November, December and January. However, the Project Proponent must take measures in this regard, otherwise they have submitted a suggestion that the project expansion should not be approved.

Apart from this, the 14th (fourteenth) comment has been received from Professor Bajirao Bapu Patil, residing at Kuditre, Taluka Karvir, District Kolhapur. In this presentation he has raised objections that although Project Proponent has installed ESP in the chimney of the project, it is not being operated properly, causing smoke nuisance to the people in the area. Also, he demanded immediate measures in this regard and while developing the green belt, it should be planned properly and developed. So that it will benefit the local farmers and the factory as well. As well as the complaints raised due to pollution in the operating project should be fully solved. Until then, he has suggested that permission should not be given for project expansion.

In addition to this, 03 (three) suggestions/objections, comments have been received by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Office, Kolhapur via email. In which Shri Ananda Dinkar Patil, Residence-Koparde, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur - He reiterated that the sludge stored by the factory, as well as the smoke released into the atmosphere from the factory, has been causing pollution for so many years. He asked whether Project Proponent will continue to cause such pollution by expanding the project. It has been demanded that the proposed project expansion be approved only after the factory undertakes all pollution control measures and after obtaining a written guarantee from the Project Proponent that the project will not cause any pollution.

Remaining two emails were received from Shri Sunanda Reddy, an Environmentalist from Telangana and from Shri Palli Navinkumar, both persons have expressed the view that the proposed project expansion should be approved only after Project Proponent fulfill all the terms and conditions as per the Notification of the Government of India.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee, appealed to the participants to raise any of their suggestions, thoughts, comments or objections and not to raise the same issues which are already raised by other person. He requested Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee give the permission.

The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Project Environment Consultant has presented the Environment Management Plan of the

proposed project in Marathi very nicely covering all issues/points. It is the first stage of the Environment Public Hearing.

Now Participants are appealed to raise suggestions, views, opinions or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Suggestions/Objections raised in the meeting will be noted and they will be included in the minutes of the meeting. But he appeals that first informs own name and name of the village while raising the issues, if the suggestion/objection is raised previously, it should not be raised again so that more people will get an opportunity to express their views.

**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) Professor Bajirao Patil, Residence-Kudile, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014, Environmental Public Hearing for the Co-generation project of this factory was held in this hall only. And today, on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Environmental Public Hearing for the project expansion is being held. The month of July is characterized as "Heavy Rainfall". The project is in the western part of Kolhapur. Here, in the month of July, there is always torrential rain. Therefore, such public hearings are avoided during this period. It is informed that there is an Environmental Public Hearing, but this meeting is being conducted in a closed hall. This is my objection, it should be noted. Also, in the public hearing today, it is informed that a 72.0-meter height of chimney (stack) has been installed in the project. Whereas, in the 2014 public hearing project report, a 70.0-meter chimney (stack) was mentioned. So, I have doubts about whether the chimney has increased itself. The second question is regarding the ESP (Electrostatic Precipitator) system in the project. The ESP system was commissioned in 2014 in the project. From 2015 until now, i.e. until the last season – March 2025, ash was falling from the chimney in the area. After 2014 public hearing, ash has been falling in the area every year, and we have filed various written complaints every year to the Government, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, and Environment Minister. The factory has only given written replies from time to time. In 2018, the factory replied that the ash content had increased due to the need of urgent repairs to ESP system.

So, my question is, how long does the ESP system remain functional after installation, what is its lifespan? Also, at 2014 Environment Public Hearing, there was a mention that a wet scrubber would be installed. Now, there is no mention of a wet scrubber in today's presentation. Hence, technical information regarding wet scrubbers should be given and whether the height of the chimney is 70 meters or 72 meters should be clarified. The Environmental Consultant replied that the existing stack will be used in the expansion project. Also, a new boiler with a capacity of 100.0 TPH (100.0 Tons Per Hour) will be commissioned, and its new ESP will be installed. So, the project will not depend on the established/commissioned ESP. In the project, we will produce 200.0 Tons of steam per hour. Stack emission, i.e. the smoke which will be generated from the chimney, will be in the prescribed limits as per the standards issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). Similarly, now Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board have made mandatory Online Continuous Monitoring System (OCMS). Its connection is with Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi and at Headquarters of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board at Mumbai. If emissions exceed the prescribed standards, an alert message is immediately sent to Project Proponent and Environmental Consultant. There is no human intervention here. An immediate alert message is sent to Project Proponent from Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi and from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board headquarters. Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, directed Project Environment Consultant to clarify regarding the lifespan of the ESP as asked by the participant. Environmental Consultant clarified that ESP is modified from time to time. Its life span is very long. Bagasse is used here. We have four fields. One field is kept reserved. So, in the expansion project, it will be planned that if one field fails, the reserve field will work. Hence, Project Proponent is committed to follow all the standards as prescribed. Here, when Shri Bajirao Patil raised the issue of the ongoing project, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that Environmental Public Hearing Committee does not have the authority to comment on the ongoing project. In future, if Project Proponent do not comply with the prescribed standards, then Maharashtra Pollution Control Board will initiate action against them as per Environmental Laws. Shri Bajirao Patil raised the issue that installing ESP should not be just written on paper but should be implemented efficiently. Chairman informed that points have been noted in the minutes.



## **2) Shri Sanjay Jotiram Patil, Residence-Wakare, Taluka-Karveer, District**

### **Kolhapur:-**

I have registered many complaints of pollution at the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur office. People who are present here just now said that even after holding public hearings earlier, pollution is still occurring. There is no reason for anyone to oppose the expansion here. I live just 2.0 km from the project. Only the villages of Kuditre, Koparde, Wakar and Sangrul are suffering due to pollution. The risk of pollution will increase after expansion in future. Photos of the pollution in the area have been taken and shown to the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office as well as the former and present Managing Directors. District Collector Office, Kolhapur; Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur Office and Project Management are not doing anything to solve the pollution problems faced by local people. Every year, I submit two-three personal complaint applications regarding pollution problems. After the expansion, we will be most at risk of water pollution, ash pollution, or wastewater pollution, because the wind blows from east to west. The water-flow goes from the Kumbhi river to the Bhogavati River. As the Project Proponent has not repaired the ESP for the last two years, the ash from the project falls into our drinking water, food, fields and forests. Hence, my request to the Government is to constitute a Three-Member Committee, conduct a study/survey again, and consider expansion only after the pollution is checked and controlled. This is the wish of the farmers and citizens here.

## **3) Shri Eknath Patil, Residence-Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

While raising the issue of pollution, an objection has been raised that ash is released into the atmosphere from the chimney. The height of the chimney in the project is 85 meters. The height of the chimney has been kept higher than the prescribed standards as laid down by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. ESP is also a machine and sometimes it breaks down. So, in the proposed project, an additional field will be kept for ESPs. So, there will be no problem in the future. He further stated that objections have been raised regarding the release of ash in environment. Earlier, there were five boilers in the project. Their capacity was 100.0 tonnes per hour. Now there is only one boiler of 100.0 tonnes. However, there is a huge difference between the bagasse combustion capacity of the old boiler and the bagasse combustion capacity of the new boiler, because now the technology has been upgraded. This will also reduce the quantity of ash produced. Modern

technology is now available, so care will be taken to ensure that the ash does not go outside the project. It is stated in the Presentation that now the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) have made Online Continuous Monitoring System (OCMS) mandatory. It has a connection with Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi and at Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Head Office at Mumbai. If the emissions exceed the prescribed standards, an alert message is immediately sent to the Project Proponent and Environmental Consultant. However, the factory will take care of all these.

**4) Shri Ananda Dinkar Patil, Residence-Koparde, Taluka-Karveer, District – Kolhapur:-**

Here, Environment Public Hearing is in process for the expansion of Kumbi Kasari Sahakari Karkhana Limited. Congratulations to the Board of Directors and all Members for the supply of sugarcane by the Members this year and the awards received by the project. The project expansion has been approved by the project's Executive Committee. The existing storage capacity for treating wastewater in the project seems inadequate because this water is lifted by Koparde village. However, farmers do not take it while the factory is in operation. Therefore, there is a possibility that the water will mix with the river. However, the water storage capacity of the lake should be increased so that water pollution does not occur.

There was no expansion earlier. The quantity of ash from the company's chimney was high and as a result, Kuditri village used to be a dusty place. However, now the problem has been reduced by increasing the height of the chimney. Therefore, the expansion will not be a loss, but it will be beneficial. It used to take four months to crush sugarcane, but now it will be crushed sooner. Due to the lack of transportation, the farmers have also been tasked with cutting sugarcane. Every farmer wants their sugarcane to be crushed sooner.

Therefore, the proposed expansion is beneficial for the local farmers and Members of the factory. However, we hope that this expansion project will be completed as soon as possible.

**5) Shri Yuvraj Mahadev Adnaik, Residence-Yaluj, Taluka-Panhala, District – Kolhapur:-**

This expansion of project will also create problems of ashes and wastewater. The wastewater, i.e. spent wash, goes into the Kumbi and Bhogavati rivers and mixes with them. This has a major impact on agriculture in Yavluj and

Satarde villages. Wells have been affected. Since this project was implemented, no rice crops have grown along the riverbanks. This has affected the farmers. However, if the question is raised whether the project should be expanded, then there is no objection to the project expansion, but the wastewater system should be commissioned first. While constructing a dam, If the issue of displaced people arises, then there is always demand that displaced people should be rehabilitated first and then only the construction of dam should be undertaken. So here also, our only demand is that we first decide for disposal of wastewater and then only expansion of the project should be undertaken.

**6) Shri Machhindra Sakharam Shirgaonkar, Residence-Koparde, Taluka – Karveer, District –Kolhapur:-**

The expansion planned by Kumbhi-Kasari Co-operative Sugar Factory Limited today is a very good decision. Because our neighboring factories import sugarcane from outside, the sugarcane of the farmers here remains with cutting from the fields. Therefore, the expansion of the project is necessary. Also, even though this project is going to be expanded, the area of work/operation of this factory will not increase. There will be no increase in the sugarcane production of local farmers here. Hence, whether Sugar Factory Management is going to adopt any new technology to increase sugarcane production in the area? Environmental Consultant replied that Project Proponent has planned an experiment to develop sugarcane production in the area by adopting A.I. (Artificial Intelligence). A meeting was organized by Project Proponent in this regard. Factory management intends to implement sugarcane cultivation development in the factory area in a phased manner using such modern technology. The meeting raised the issue of wastewater disposal. There is a distillery expansion project. An incineration boiler will be installed in the distillery unit. In it, the spent wash will be completely burned. At that time, **Shri Yuvraj Mahadev Adnaik, resident of Yavluj, Taluka-Panhala, District-Kolhapur**, objected that the project management has been saying the same thing for the last twenty years. The agriculture fields and wells here have been affected by the wastewater /spent wash. However, the factory management should plan the wastewater /spent wash treatment. Here, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee suggested taking an assurance from the Project Proponent.

**7) Shri Pundlik Awaji Patil, Amshi Village, Taluka Karvir, District – Kolhapur:-**

Here, the Environment Public Hearing Meeting is in process for the proposed expansion of project. A presentation of the proposed expansion is

shown. So, the issue that comes up in this meeting is wastewater. And the company should take measures against this wastewater. My village is Kushi. Our land at Amshi village is 2100 acres. But only 300 acres of land is underwater. However, there is an entire mountainous area there. I wrote to the factory management 3-4 months ago that if the factory gives us wastewater, we can cultivate sugarcane on 400 acres. However, the factory should give us this treated wastewater. Similarly, if there is water pollution here, we will not make water pollution by taking wastewater from here. The presentation explained how the members will benefit. This project will ensure that local farmers get a good price for their sugarcane. The factory has paid a price higher than the FRP. Hence, I request that the issue I raised be considered while planning the wastewater treatment plant and that this project be implemented as soon as possible.

**8) Shri Krishna Maruti Patil, Residence-Koparde, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

Soil testing should be conducted in every village affected by the project. Only then should the report be prepared. The Environmental Consultant said that the environmental survey is carried out as per the guidelines passed under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

**9) Shri Sharad Dattatraya Nalwade, Residence- Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

Just now, in the meeting, Shri Pundalik Patil from Awashi village demanded treated waste water for his village. So, I am requesting you to give him all the water of my allotment.

**10) Shri Vishnu Dnyanu Raut, Residence-Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

This area is severely damaged due to this ash and wastewater. I request the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board officials and company managers to come and live here as residents when the factory is in operation. The extent to which the pollution of water, air, and noise is affecting us should be studied. Also, it was necessary to hold this public hearing when the factory is in operation. I also request that the remote villages which need treated wastewater should be provided to them immediately and treatment and disposal of the treated wastewater should be planned.

**11) Shri Dhanaji Nivrutti Patil, Residence-Amashi, Taluka Karvir, District-**

**Kolhapur:-**

Shri Pundalik Patil raised the issue that water should be provided to our village. I am one of the landowners of that village. We support the issue raised by Shri Patil. I am requesting the factory administration to implement the plan as soon as possible. Here, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee suggested to raise any suggestions or issues regarding the proposed project only. Shri Dhanaji Patil said that I will tell the factory Chairman, who may be MLA, and other senior officials that I am Member of the factory, and my in-laws are Promoters of this factory. At that time, Chairman of the Committee advised participants to listen to the issue of Shri Dhanaji Patil. Chairman of the Committee said that Shri Dhanaji Patil was suggesting undertaking public utility works in his village under the CSR fund. He said that the factory had started paying honorarium to the players who were selected at the national/international level. It has been discontinued. However, the scheme should be re-introduced again. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the issues as raised have been noted. Here, **Project Proponent Shri Eknath Patil, resident of Kuditre, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur**, while explaining, said that earlier, nine liters of water were required to make one liter of alcohol in the distillery project. Then Project Proponent modernized the distillation project. So, four liters of water are required for one liter of alcohol. The distillery project will be a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) project as indicated in the presentation. The proposed project will take 3-4 years to set up and operate. An incineration boiler will be implemented in the proposed project. Therefore, not a single drop of treated wastewater will be released outside the project.

**12) Shri Krishna Dnyanu Patil, Residence-Khupire/Shindewadi, District-**

**Kolhapur:-**

This is an open Environment Public Hearing Meeting. However, those who have raised doubts/suggestions regarding the factory must resolve them and give them justice. I am giving examples of why the expansion of the project is necessary. The factory will get good sugarcane from the Kumbhi Kasari sugarcane belt. Since the crushing capacity of the factory is low, people could not give sugarcane to the factory for crushing. As a result, farmers were unable to harvest sugarcane and grow another crop. Due to the expansion, farmers will be able to harvest all their sugarcane and after giving sugarcane for crushing can grow another crop. Due to

the low crushing capacity, the farmers here were forced to sell sugarcane to other factories at a lower rate, causing losses to the farmers. The expansion will increase the income of farmers. This factory is number one in providing sugarcane prices to farmers. The increase in crushing capacity will prevent losses to farmers. He further said that the company has laid a water pipeline in his village but there is no water supply. Only the pipes are just lying. However, water facilities should be provided.

**13) Shri Pandurang Krishna Telvekar, Residence-Adur, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

For the factory, treated waste water is waste. But for Amshi and Pargaon Wadas, it is productive. This means, it is useful. So, additional funds should be taken from Central Government to provide water facilities.

**14) Professor Bajirao Patil, Residence-Kudile, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

Project will generate fog by heating water with a boiler. It remains the same. It has not disappeared for a long time. It contains sulfur content. Its air will have an adverse effect on the residents of the area. Have any measures been taken regarding the fog? The Environmental Consultant replied that incineration boilers are operational in many places in Maharashtra and no such outbreak has been detected. However, the guidelines passed by the Central Pollution Control Board regarding incineration boilers and emissions from them will be strictly followed.

**15) Shri Krishna Maruti Patil, Residence-Koparde, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

There is no use in just discussing here. People are also starting to leave. However, the Board of Directors and you should discuss and decide.

**16) Shri Baliram Dnyanu Patil, Residence-Koparde, Taluka-Karveer, District-Kolhapur:-**

I am a Member of Gopalwadi. The project will cause water and air pollution. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that suggestions/objections raised by the participants are noted.

**17) Shri Dattatraya Shankar Patil, Residence-Sabalewadi, District-Kolhapur:-**

We fully support the project.

**18) Shri Baburao Sadashiv Kembalekar, Residence-Khupire, District-Kolhapur:-**

He asserted that it is necessary to take measures to prevent the ash that is generated during project production from flying away.

**19) Project Proponent – Chairman, Kumbhi-Kasari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited:-**

Welcome to the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and all participants of the meeting. The Board of Directors has approved the expansion because the factory has planned the expansion for the benefit of farmers. This Environment Public Hearing Meeting is in process to get Environment Clearance for expansion of Sugar Factory for manufacturing from 5,000.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD; Co-generation plant from 19.5 MW to 30.0 MW and Molasses /Sugar Cane Juice/Syrup based Distillery Unit from 30.0 KLPD to 100.0 KLPD. Since our project is old, hence we have received permission for expansion. Otherwise, now the Central Government does not give permission for expansion. It was suggested in the meeting that people from some villages have demanded the treated waste water from the project. We are providing it, and even after the season is over, the water supply from the project is provided to all those villages. All the latest systems will be implemented in the proposed project. Project Management will implement all measures for pollution control and now as per the government's directives, the said project will be a ZLD - i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge project. The wastewater generated in the project will be treated, recycled and reused in the production process. An incineration boiler will be commissioned in the project and the spent wash will be completely reduced to ash. The ash and potash will be made available as fertilizer for agriculture. The chimney/stack in the project is 80 meters of height. ESP will be installed in it. While doing this in stages, we will follow the standards as prescribed by the Government. The project will comply with all the norms. More measures will be taken to prevent pollution. Artificial Intelligence systems will be adopted to help local farmers to increase their sugarcane production. We have invited applications for this, and we have received applications from people with 250-300 acres of land. This project will bring economic progress to the farmers here. Factories have carried various social works in the area and the tradition will continue. Together we will build a "new era factory". We Project Proponent and Vasantdada Sugar Institute are committed to implementing the project and the Environmental Management Plan. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing

Committee appealed all participants to raise any suggestions or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

**20) Shri Balaso Sadashiv Patil, Residence – Koge, Kolhapur:-**

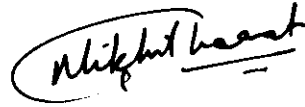
Due to the pollution of the project, the soil quality is decreasing, which will also reduce the production of sugarcane. So what measures are going to be implemented in this regard? Also, the compost fertilizer from the project should be made available to all the members. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestion as raised is noted. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise any suggestions or objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. There was no response from the participants. While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee many participants have raised their suggestions or objections. With the co-operation of everyone, this Environment Public Hearing has been conducted very peacefully. Those who wish to register written suggestions and objections should submit them at the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office, Kolhapur. It will be submitted to Government alongwith the minutes of the meeting. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing thanked all and declared that the meeting is concluded. Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 17 suggestions/objections as received.



**(Pramod Mane)**

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