

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing For Commissioning of Proposed Ambivali Cement Grinding Unit With Production Capacity of 6.0 MMTPA (2X3 MMTPA) Located At Survey No. 1,6 to 13, 16, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3, 60 & 66, Village-Mohane, Survey No.14 To 17 In Village-Atali, Survey No.11, 31, 32, 36, 37 To 41, Village-Ambivali, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane, Maharashtra – 421 102 By Project Proponent M/s. Ambuja Cements Limited

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of commissioning of proposed Ambivali Cement Grinding Unit with production capacity of 6.0 MMTPA (2X3 MMTPA) located at Survey No. 1, 6 to 13, 16, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3, 60 & 66, Village-Mohane, Survey No.14 To 17 In Village -Atali, Survey No.11, 31, 32, 36, 37 To 41, Village-Ambivali, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane, Maharashtra – 421 102 by Project Proponent M/s Ambuja Cements Limited was held on Tuesday, the 16th September, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. at M/s N.R.C. Limited Area, Village-Ambivali, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane, Maharashtra.

Shri Upendra Kulkarni, Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on behalf of District Collector Office, Thane and Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan welcomed Shri. Harishchandra Patil, Additional District Collector and Additional District Magistrate, Thane and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Jayawant Hajare, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, environmentalists, NGOs, journalists, representatives of Media channels, police administration and company officials as well as local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Shri. Upendra Kulkarni, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009 and 14th August 2018, it is mandatory to conduct public consultation before commissioning 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 participate in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

He informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 26/07/2024 from project proponent **M/s Ambuja Cements Limited** to conduct Environment Public Hearing in respect of Commissioning of Proposed Ambivali Cement Grinding unit with production capacity of 6.0 MMTPA (2X3 MMTPA) Located At Survey No. 1,6 to 13, 16, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3, 60 & 66, Village-Mohane, Survey No.14 To 17 In Village-Atali, Survey No.11, 31, 32, 36, 37 To 41, Village-Ambivali, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane, Maharashtra – 421 102.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No.1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 and as per Office Memorandum Dated 24th December, 2013, the proposed activities fall under **Category "B-1" 3 (b) – Cement Project (Stand - Alone Grinding Unit)** which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan vide letter dated 09/08/2024 requested Hon. District Collector, Thane to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Thane directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 16th September, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. at National Rayon Company Limited premises, Village-Ambivali, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane, Maharashtra and after getting sanction from District Collector, Thane, Member Secretary of 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, Gol), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 61 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 250820-FTS- 0045, dated 20-08-2025 as under: -

- 1) District Magistrate-Thane
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Kalyan,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kalyan
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-I
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kalyan

Chairman

Member

Convener

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan in the local newspaper in daily Loksatta for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Indian Express for English on 13-08-2025. 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) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Raigad, Thane;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Centre, Thane;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Thane;
- 5) Sub Divisional Officer-Kalyan, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane;
- 6) Hon. Police Superintendent, Thane, District-Thane;
- 7) Hon. Secretary, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 8) Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
- 9) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 3rd Floor, Siddhivinayak Sankul, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan West – 421 301;
- 10) Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 3rd Floor, Siddhivinayak Sankul, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan West – 421 301;
- 11) Kalyan Dombivali Municipal Corporation, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane;
- 12) Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation, District-Thane;
- 13) Bhiwandi Municipal Corporation, District-Thane;
- 14) Ambernath Nagar Parishad, District-Thane;
- 15) Kulgaon Badlapur Nagar Parishad, District-Thane;
- 16) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Kalyan, District-Thane;
- 17) Grampanchayat Offices -Mharal BK, Varap, Kamba;
- 18) Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board –
Executive Summary of the Proposed Project is made available in Marathi and English;

Convener informed that about 2900 suggestions / objections have been received from various notified offices/by hand/by post and suggestions/objections through email by Sub Regional Office, Kalyan-1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board regarding the proposed project before the public hearing date. Also, during public hearing some objections / suggestions have also been received.

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 the 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 public hearing. Similarly, the Environmental Impact 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, Project Environmental Consultant made a presentation about the project and the project's Environmental Management Plan.

Environmental Consultant of the project said that the project proponent M/s Ambuja Cements Limited has proposed setting up a Greenfield Cement Grinding Unit called Ambivali Cement Grinding Unit with a production capacity of 2X3 MMTPA (6 MMTPA).

The cost of the said project will be approximately Rs. 1,400 crores, with a capital expenditure of Rs. 20.10 crores and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 4.80 crores per year for the Environmental Management Plan, while Rs. 14.0 crores have been reserved for CER i.e. Corporate Environmental Responsibility. The Project will provide temporary employment to 1,500 people and permanent employment to 30 people during the construction phase, and after the project is completed, 125 people will get temporary employment, and 30 people will get permanent employment.

Further project proponent consultant has briefed about the manufacturing process of the cement grinding, technical aspect of pollution control systems and brief details on Environmental Impact Assessment report of the project.

The project will require 200.0 KLD of water during the construction phase and 600.0 KLD during the operational phase.

Environmental Consultant gave detailed information about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the proposed project. He informed that the said project is in the interest of the local area, the state of Maharashtra and the country.

After the presentation of the project, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, criticisms, and objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. While raising suggestions/objections, they should first introduce name and village name. Further informed that a video recording of the proceedings would be made, and a minute of the public hearing would be prepared in Marathi and English.

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

1) Advocate Uday Chaudhari, Representative, National Rayon Corporation Workers' Union:-

He inform that organization is affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Central Congress Organization - the first trade union established in India. They have registered objections online regarding the proposed project by this Organization.

At the same time, they have a sister association, "Kisan Sabha". They have also registered objections through it. Their main objection is that they have challenged the resolved plan in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), New Delhi, regarding the amount due to the former employees of the M/s. National Rayon Company, which is acquired by the Adani Group. According to the appeal at NCLAT there will be a new chemical unit where M/s. National Rayon Company was in operation, however at this place cement grinding unit is proposed and they will appeal against this issue in the court of law.

Next objection: - The previous M/s. National Rayon Company was manufacturing nylon and rayon. After the company closed, it was informed that all this place would be used for containers and warehouses. Such information and news were published in the media. Without doing this, now cement project proposal is coming before us. So according to the law, change cannot take place. He further inform that they also observed that the long pending dues of the workers are not paid proportionately to the four hundred acres of land which belongs to the former company i.e. M/s. National Rayon Company. They have challenged it in court. Though this issue is sub judice and though it is not environmental issue, but point is unavoidable.

Further objection – It has been shown in the presentation that the proposed project will not put pressure on urbanization and people of the surrounding villages will get employment opportunities here. However, it is noted that proposed project is within the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation area means located in urban area only. It is further mentioned in the project report that a road adjacent to the project site and villages like Baneli, Titwala, Galegaon, Atali etc. are densely populated. Proposed project will be built in these densely populated villages.

There was a chemical industry in the past, it was causing a lot of trouble for the people in the surrounding area. Many written complaints have been sent to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Government. More problematic will be the proposed project, as large quantity of energy will be used for the grinder, which will generate heat in the area and will increase the temperature in the atmosphere. Apart from that, water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution are bound to happen here. Another important threat is that there are three water sources operating in the project area. There are three live rivers here. The important rivers in Konkan are Ulhas River, Kalu River and the smaller Barvi River, Bhatsa River. Apart from these, there are live

streams. However, the report states that there are no drains in the project area. So, these rivers are drains. Although the Environmental Report states that the proposed project will have a sewage treatment plant and the treated wastewater will be recycled and reused within the project itself, the report does not mention that this wastewater will be disposed of in the river. Gypsum and limestone are used in cement production. Mixing raw materials will inevitably cause air pollution. Also, noise pollution will inevitably occur due to the grinder.

Hence, their demand is we do not want this project.

Also, the next issue – Public hearings were required to be conducted in all villages within the radius of 10 km of the project site. We feel that this Environmental Public Hearing has been deliberately fabricated. Because when this public hearing notice was published in the newspapers, there was Ganapati festival and Eid-ul-Fitr. Due to festival, most people did not have time to register their objections. Hence, an extension of thirty days should be given to file written suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project.

This is because the public notice of the public hearing has been published in the newspaper during festive seasons and heavy monsoon days, preventing various environmental protection associations / groups / NGOs from getting a chance to register their objections. Hence, an additional period of thirty days should be given to register the suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed to participants that while registering suggestions/questions/objections, they should first state their name and village name. Also, only questions/objections should be registered. It is requested not speak about other matters except specific suggestions / objections, because talking on other matters will not allow you to record your original problem/issues and because taking too much time will give other participants less time to ask questions.

Specific pointwise problems should be raised regarding the proposed project. We have conducted environmental public hearings to listen to the problems regarding the proposed project.

A participant asked Environmental Public Hearing Committee whether questions raised will be answered in this meeting as per the wish of all participants.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee, informed that the questions raised during the meeting by the participants will be answered. But only suggestions, questions be raised and name and village name should be informed by the questioners.

2) Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil, Residence-Atali, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane:-

Ambivali, Mohane, Atali are densely populated areas. Instead of setting up a cement grinding industry in these densely populated areas, why don't Project Proponent set up the unit at barren and isolated area. Because this project will cause water pollution,

air pollution, and noise pollution and to prevent pollution, this project should be commissioned in a place where there is no human settlement and the area is deserted.

Project Proponent replied that all the standards as prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) will be strictly followed from time to time in the proposed project. Here, only cement grinding will be carried here. As people think, there is no integrated cement project plant will be established here. The clinkers will be brought by the railway. Only grinding will be carried out at this site. Proposed project will be ZLD – Zero Liquid Discharge project and treated effluent will not be released outside the factory. Proposed project will adopt German technology and will install bag houses and conveyor belts in the project to avoid air pollution. If at all there is any chance of pollution, it will be prevented. Cement projects have been set up in cities like Mumbai, as well as densely populated areas like Kalamboli. We have taken a decision regarding the construction of the project here after conducting all the studies in this regard. Project Proponent assured that there is zero percent pollution from the proposed project.

Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil further asked whether the raw materials, such as stones which will be required for this project will be collected by stone quarrying by blasting, Mining and excavations activities in the area? There will be noise pollution in the area due to use of machines for mining/digging and excavation. Here is densely populated area and all residents will suffer due to heavy noise pollution. There will be environmental degradation. Who will take responsibility of environmental degradation? How will you bring stone to use raw material with other raw material?

Project Proponent appreciated Shri Patil for asking right question and informed that raw material such as stones and clinker will be brought by railway through closed wagons only. It will be unloaded immediately at the Cement Grinding Section. The bag filter will suck all the dust. Products manufactured in the project will be stored in a silo. Later, it will be packaged. Hence, as raw material is brought from outside there will no Mining and exaction activities in the area for this project.

Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil objected that at present the grinding units / stone crusher which have been installed at Kamba-Varap area where there is production of stone metal and grit. The residents are suffering due to noise pollution produced from the operating machines. The blasting is also carried out for mining and excavation, which have caused cracks on the houses. Hence, people are not willing to live there. Here also this area is densely populated, if the same situation happens here, who will take responsibility for it?

Project Proponent replied that no production activities will be carried out here. The energy (electricity) will be received from the grid. Also, for the prevention of noise pollution, a green belt will be developed in project area in large quantity than the standards prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, which will create barriers to noise pollution.

Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil further informed that Project Proponent has provided a list of primary schools, secondary schools and other educational institutions which are in

the area. All the students studying there are citizens of India. Proposed project will affect their health and the citizens residing here. Once the project is approved, project proponent does not bother anybody for keeping promises.

Today, industrial and domestic effluent of all the companies is discharged into the Kalu River. Despite many complaints, no one pays attention. The creek is completely polluted. So, who will take responsibility if pollution occurs?

Project Proponent assured that the proposed project will not cause any water pollution. Proposed project is Zero Liquid Discharge project. Industrial effluent generated in the production process will be treated and it will recycle and reused in the process and for the green belt within the project. Also, the National Rayon Company school here belongs to our group, it is being run very beautifully. This proposed project is just a grinding unit. It is not an integrated cement plant.

Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil further asked that the boiler of the previous project was installed here, it had a stack of 100 feet. The smoke would be released outside, and the air would spread the smoke particles fall on the residents houses. Therefore, what measures will be taken by the company to control the smoke in this proposed project?

Project Proponent informed that there is no boiler in the proposed project.

Environmental Consultant said that two 500 KVA generators will be operational in the project, and the height of the chimneys/stacks will be kept as per the standards passed by Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Also, a bag house will be provided to the stack. Also, an Online Continuous Monitoring System is mandatory in the project and one of its connections is connected to the Central Pollution Control Board Office, New Delhi and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Headquarters, Mumbai. Even if there is a slight increase the pollutants than prescribed standards, there will be message from both the Authorities immediately.

Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil further asked how the requirement of water will be fulfilled for the proposed project?

Environmental Consultant informed that Project Management has planned both options to meet the water requirement i.e. groundwater and surface water. A request for permission in this regard will be made after taking local people into confidence.

Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil expressed the opinion that the water of the Ulhas River is pure and about 50-60 lakh people are used to drink the river water. About 50-60 lakh people in the areas of Thane Municipal Corporation, Ambarnath Municipal Council, Kulgaon - Badlapur Municipal Council, Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation depend on river water for drinking and livelihood. We are already facing water shortage. All the municipal corporations shut down the water supply on single day to conserve the water. How will the people here get water for drinking if the this project lift water from Ulhas River?

Environmental Consultant said that the project will require 600.0 kiloliters of water per day. Also, this project depends on dry cement only. Therefore, it will require minimal water.

Shri Maruti Gotiram Patil opined that even though project proponent have assured that there will be no pollution, the assurance will be followed till the project gets permission. Once the factory operations start the people here will have to suffer due to pollution.

Hence, we request that the proposed project be commissioned in an area where there is no population.

3) Asha Rasal, Co-Ordinator Chief, Bhiwandi Loksabha Vidhansabha Uddhav Balasaheb Thakare Shivsena Party:-

Environmental Consultant of the project has given information about the project in the presentation. According to the information given by project consultant, this factory will not cause pollution anywhere, so the proposed factory should be built near their residence. Participants at the meeting asked questions which were answered by the project proponent. However, she firmly says that a factory will not be built here. She firmly says that factory will not be allowed to start here. The population living in the vicinity of the project site will be affected by the pollution of this proposed project. Government cannot impose any project on us. People know their rights. And everyone here has a feeling that there will be no plant here at this site.

Also, this public hearing is a farce. We came to know about this public hearing eight days ago, some people came to know it four days ago. The population to be affected by the proposed project is at least 50-60 lakhs. She informed that her residence is within 5.0 km. radius of the project site. About 25 (twenty-five) villages in Bhiwandi will be affected. Also Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation area, areas of Mohane, Titwala, Ulhasnagar, Ambivali, Shahad city will be affected by this project.

The M/s. National Rayon Company here was established in 1947. When this company was established, there was no population here. There were very few settlements and residences here. Now this area is densely populated and due to the pollution from this project, the residents here will be affected by respiratory diseases. A child having asthma, will have more problems and disease will spread. This disease will reduce lung function, children and people here will be affected by diseases like bronchitis. Due to this pollution, various skin disorders will occur, and the incidence of heart disease will increase. *Project proponents are going to keep talking sweet until they get permission for the factory.*

She then states that constitution has given the Right to Live to all people. Accordingly, such factories should be located far from the population. However, in order to ensure that the rights of the people are not violated, all the people have the Right to a Clean Environment. So, if the government is going to implement the project forcibly on us, a strong movement will be launched against it. Further she informed that, the information about this public hearing has not reached many people, so attendance is somewhat low. Hence, a public hearing should be re-held after thirty days. So that the attendance at the public hearing will be in large numbers.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, appealed to all participants to raise only pertinent questions/suggestions or objections.

4) Shri Daya Shetty, Ex-Corporator, Representative of People:-

Environmental Public hearing organized by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is being held because of the pollution that will be caused by the project. The question is, are there any rules about the distance of polluting companies should be from residential areas?

At that time, a group of people present were loudly chanting slogans against the project. Here, some participants appealed to the public to peacefully raise any environmental suggestions, questions, or objections regarding the proposed project as the question period was ongoing.

Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed Shri Daya Shetty to reiterate the objections.

Shri Daya Shetty asked the question whether there are any guidelines from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board regarding the distance criteria of cement projects from residential areas? How far will the proposed project cause noise pollution? Also, fine dust particles are emitted in the cement grinding project, what measures will be adopted by project officials?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Government have not yet given permission for the proposed project. This environment public hearing is called to record the suggestions, views, comments or objections raised by the local people and participants regarding the proposed project.

Suggestions, views, comments or objections which have been raised in the meeting are being recorded and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Also, suggestions /objections received by hand delivery/post/email, final EIA report along with minutes of the meeting in English and Marathi are submitted after approval of Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai to Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there will take further decision.

Shri Daya Shetty asked whether the company could be established near residential area?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, informed that all the directives, criteria and Notifications of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Govt. of India will be verified regarding "Category of Project; Production; Distance criteria" from residential zone and then only further necessary action will be initiated.

Shri Daya Shetty said that our only demand is that the project should not cause pollution of the Kalu River and there should not be air pollution, and we want assurance from the government in this regard.

5) Shri J. C. Kataria, Former Worker, National Reyon Company, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane, Representative of Public of the area, Former Corporator: -

Environment Public Hearing for the proposed project is going on for a factory in this area and did you give publicity about this public hearing?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, informed that as per Govt. of India's directives under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to publish public notice of environment public hearing in local newspaper and in national newspaper 30 days' in advance. Accordingly, Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan has published public notice in local newspaper i.e. in Loksatta for Marathi and national newspaper i.e. in The Indian Express on 13th August, 2025.

At that time, Shri Kataria objected that information on a subject is not made available to all residents at the village level as it is done by the Revenue Department.

The second objection is that the information regarding the public hearing of the said project has not reached the common people, therefore, an extension should be given to register suggestions and objections. Also, an explanation should be given as to whether we will get opportunity to extend the deadline for registering suggestions/objections.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, informed that in this meeting no decision will be taken. Your suggestion has been noted.

Shri Kataria while objecting further asked that Does Environmental Consultant who prepared the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report have any knowledge of our area? Do they understand the geographical and social conditions of this area? The answer is no, roughly speaking, Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared by the Environmental Consultant and submitted by him and accepted by the Environmental Public Hearing Committee.

Also, has the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board conducted a survey of the area after receiving this report? However, the information provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment report is insufficient and misleading. Whether a re-survey will be conducted within a 10.0 km radius of the project area, involving local public representatives, social organizations, and environmental organizations?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that EIA report which is submitted by Environment Consultant is draft report and it is not a Final EIA.

Shri Kataria objected to the fact that this public hearing is organized on this incorrect and misleading report

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee clarified that this Environment Public Hearing is conducted as per the directives under EIA Notification, 2006. Based on the suggestions, views, and objections raised by those present at the public hearing on environmental issues, the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is

revised, and the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report is submitted to the Government.

Shri Kataria objected that Environmental Consultant did not consider the geographical conditions, social conditions, natural vegetation, urban settlements, and cropping seasons of the area while preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment report. Therefore, it should be noted that such a large number of crowd is present here despite the short time, and there is huge opposition to this factory.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee said that their issue has been noted.

Shri Kataria further raised the objection that the proposed Ambuja Cement project is planned to be built by the Adani Group on the M/s. National Rayon Company land. Information should be provided as to whether the Adani Group has received the land clearance/land title of the requisite site.

Environmental Consultant informed that the area of the proposed project falls within the "Industrial Zone," so there is no question of land diversion.

Shri Kataria asked again whether the Adani project has received the M/s. National Rayon Company land title i.e. the ownership of the land.

Project Proponent responded positively. At that time, then Shri Kataria asked to submit all the documents, a positive response was also given by project proponent.

Shri Kataria said that District Collector of Thane has submitted report to the Urban Development Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai regarding how much the forest land is in the 445 acres of the previous NRC project, how much Railway Department land is and how much Government land is? No decision has been taken in this regard.

Project Proponent replied that all the information you need will be made available. It will be shown to you.

Shri Kataria further demanded that there are ongoing court cases regarding some plots of land belonging to the local people in Ambivali. Shri Kataria was told that the proposal submitted by M/s. National Rayon Company in the court was for only 107 acres. Matter is sub-judice now. As the matter is sub-judice, even if the land was given to the Adani project on ownership rights, then this issue should be investigated.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee remarked that your feelings are being respected. It will definitely be investigated. If there are any such documents, it should be made available immediately and same will be noted.

Shri Kataria further objected to that aggravation watching here, because the proposed project is going to affect all human life. There will be noise pollution. The natural green belt in this area is going to be destroyed to a large extent. Project proponent informed that they are going to develop a green belt in 09 acres (nine acres). The unemployment has risen due to shut down of industries in this area. He further stated they will support the project if the project proponent is willing to establish IT park instead of cement

plant. The public will welcome engineering projects and automobile projects as people from our area will get employment.

However, implementing such a polluting project will lead to a huge backlash and opposition. However, the project proponent should change their proposal of establishing this polluting project here. As well as there are many discrepancies in the environmental report submitted by the environmental consultant, like at

a) Page no.3 –

It has been stated that only 0.6 MLD of water will be used. However, the source of water is not provided, because Kalyan-Dombivli, Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation has a water shortage of 50.0 MLD.

b) Page no.3 –

It is mentioned that job opportunities will be available to the local people. During the construction phase 1,500 people will be employed, however after the project is completed only 155 people will get employment. Moreover, 4,000 to 5,000 workers of the NRC company are jobless, they will not get anything.

c)Page No.8 – Entire project will build on 26.0 hectares of land as shown, but the project is going to be established on 15.16 hectares. So, whether the projects going to be expanded on the remaining land?

d) Page No.14 - There may be species in this area that are of ecological conservation concern. So, clarification is needed on whether there is a possibility or certainty of presence of such species in this area.

e) **Page No.21 –** There is a mention of environmental management committee in the report, it includes only the Adani Group. It does not include local representatives, local environmental experts or government officials.

Project proponent should revise the project report. The project should be revised. However, we will strongly oppose the cement grinding project. It is requested that instead of the cement grinding project, engineering projects, IT parks, and food processing projects be proposed here for development.

6) Shri Ashish Dattatraya Mokal, At Post-Hashivare, Taluka-Alibag, District-Raigad:-

He objected that the proposed project will promote increase in global warming. All citizens are against the proposed project. I am an activist of the Indian Life and Nature Conservation Movement. I am also objecting through the movement. Presentation shows that coal consumption is 0.14 MMTPA. How and where will this coal be used as the project proponent claims that there will be no pollution.

Environmental Consultant replied that 0.14 MMTPA coal will be used for hot gas generators. It will be used to remove moisture from the cement mill process. The coal will not be used for anywhere else.

Shri. Ashish Mokal asked how the ash, steam and pollution released by using coal will be controlled. **Environmental Consultant** said that it will be recycled within the

project itself. On this, **Shri. Ashish Mokal** objected and said that M/s. JSW Company located at Vadkhal is dumping the ash of the company in fertile land. I request the citizens of this place to go and visit Vadkhal. I am personally affected by that company. Vegetable, Mango, Banana crops have been destroyed. Even Dharamtar creek, Amba river are affected by M/s. JSW. Unit only makes false promises, but does nothing. Next objection is about water. The people here don't have water to drink, and the company needs water for cement.

Global warming has become uncontrollable, the level of CO₂ in August 2020 has become uncontrolled, it has gone beyond the minimum standards. Today, you are going to establish such projects and introduce carbon emissions. You are increasing the risk of carbon emissions that are dangerous to human existence. Therefore, not only Ambivali, but also people will not allow such projects anywhere in the world. Further Shri. Ashish Mokal has opposed the proposed project. These projects are *disrupting the criteria for living on this planet, including water, land and clean air.* However, such projects should not start. We are all human beings. However, we should not start such projects.

Also shown in the presentation, 2,500 trees should be planted.

7) Ms. Sankalpana Karhade, Member, Maharashtra Rajya Kisan Sabha Association, Member, Bhartiya Mahila Federation:-

He supports the suggestions made by the speakers who raised their views before. Now he ask the question whether Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is trustworthy by the public? This should be answered.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee remarked that there is confidence on Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, therefore this open *Environmental Public Hearing has been organized to discuss environmental issues.*

Sankalpana Karhade objected that Ulhas River and Bhatsa River are polluted. The Kalu River is also polluted. If the sources of these rivers are not flowing like before, the river water is not purified, then how can we believe that pollution is controlled?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed to raise suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only.

Sankalpana Karhade objected that the temperature will increase due to the heat generated by this project. The ground water in the project area is going to dry up, as well as the river flow is going to stop. Also, the rice cultivation here is going to be completely damaged. People here are just going to die of hunger. Adani has not only killed M/s. National Rayon Company workers but also will kill people from this area. Is there any reply to this, because the Adani group is not trustworthy.

One of the participants in the meeting suggested that an IT park should, Food processing, Engineering projects should be set up, and a hospital can also be opened, so that local people can get job opportunities. If only 155 people will get opportunity to work in this project, then project is not beneficial to us.

Convener of the meeting directed project proponent to answer the following questions which has been raised -

- a) Whether proposed project will lead to a decrease in groundwater levels?
- b) Whether proposed project will increase the temperature in the area?
- c) Whether the rivers are going to dry up?

Ms. Karhade further suggested that there is a trend now to build houses with mud instead of cement. Hence, there is no need for this project.

Convener directed Project Proponent to give answers to the above three questions.

Environmental Consultant replied that the proposed project is a Stand-Alone Grinding Unit. It is not an Integrated Cement Plant. Limestone will not be used in the proposed project. The project relies on a dry process. Therefore, minimal water will be required.

Proposed project will be ZLD – Zero Liquid Discharge project. It means that not a drop of treated effluent will be generated outside the factory.

Environmental Consultant further informed that there is doubts about the groundwater level would decrease. But this project area and the entire Thane District, falls in Safe Zone. Prior permission will be taken from the Central Ground Water Authority of the Central Government. Groundwater will be extracted only as per their directives. Therefore, the groundwater level will not decrease.

8) Shri Subhash Gangaram Patil, Residence-Mohane Koliwada, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane:-

Project Proponent say that they will plant 2,500 trees. Project officials should be asked how many trees were cut down, because they have cut down more than 5,000 trees.

The reason for the opposition is that the project will cause pollution. Instead of cement company, an IT park should be set up there. We are opposing the project because of pollution.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that all the suggestions/objections have been noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Shri Subhash Patil said that M/s. National Rayon Company is closed. Although the company says that it will provide employment to local people, the company has issued a recruitment notice, so it will not provide employment to locals. The warehouse was started, we gave 450 acres of land to the company, out of which 67 acres are reserved. However, they did not give employment opportunities to the local people. Many employees of the M/s. National Rayon Company passed away. Some employees were remunerated, but after the company closed, the other employees were not salaried. Hence provide them with their pending dues first. Nearly, 4,241 M/s. National Rayon Company workers were affected. Their heirs should be given employment in new projects. Also, a solution should be found for those whose dues have not been paid.

Even if a project is to be built, locals will have to be employed. If locals are not employed, the company will not be allowed to operate.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that point of job opportunities have been noted. However, instead of wasting time by repeating the issue again and again, a new issue should be raised. In addition, asking specific questions will help us to understand your main issue and give you the opportunity to ask questions to other participants.

Project proponent assured that employment opportunities will be provided to local people only. Those who have the skills required for the project will be given opportunities and skill development programs will be implemented for those who do not have the skills.

9) Shri Ramesh Indra Konkar, Former Sabhapati, Kalyan-Dombivli Mahanagar Palika, Gen. Secretary, Gramsatha Mandal, Mohane Koliwada:-

Express gratitude for organizing public hearing by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. When the M/s. National Rayon Company closed, the Adani Group built warehouses instead of paying the pending dues of the M/s. National Rayon Company workers. And now the intention is to start cement unit.

Also, the people present here asked many questions, to which the company officials could not answer. It was expected to clarify the land issue by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Lands are given by our ancestors to the M/s. National Rayon Company project. The aim is to provide employment to the local landowners and their descendants in the project. But still the workers of M/s. National Rayon Company unit have not received their pending dues.

Further water pollution, air pollution, and noise pollution that will be caused by the proposed cement grinding project and will only affect the local people. Therefore, we will not allow the project at this location.

Also, Villages in the municipal area will be affected by this project. It will have a serious impact on their health, and this must be fully considered by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee expressed the view that Shri Ramesh Indra Konkar, former Chairman, Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation has two questions.-

- a) Will employment opportunities be provided to the original landowners?
- b) Further action regarding the pending dues of the M/s. NRC company which have not been paid to the workers.

Project Proponent answered that -

Priority for the job will be given to people from project-affected villages. Those who have the necessary skills to work the opportunity to them will be given. Those who lack skills will be empowered by being given training opportunities.

Also, we will accept the decision of the court regarding former company M/s. National Rayon Company.

Shri Ramesh Indra Konkar further opposes this project as it will cause pollution. Also, on behalf of the villagers of Mohane Koliwada, we request you that project proponent should not start this project at this site.

10) Shri Parag Dashrath Patil, Residence-Atali, Taluka-Kalyan, District-Thane,

Raised first question to Environmental Public Hearing Committee.

The workers of the M/s. National Rayon Company have been working for the last forty years. Even after the company closed down, they did not receive their dues.

Have you considered the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, which mandates workers to receive their salaries and arrears? Also, have you considered the need to protect workers under Section 78 of the Factories Act, 1947?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as issued by Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi, it is mandatory to certain industries to obtained Environment Clearance before starting the project and prior Environment Public Hearing is mandatory. We have taken note of the long pending dues of the workers by the old company M/s. National Rayon Company, and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Shri Parag Patil The project will be built on 64 acres and informed that local people are demanding that a renowned institute like NEERI, Nagpur or IIT Institutes should conduct a survey of the 10 km radius of this project. As surroundings of the project site are densely residential area However, the environmental report that was made available is a mere 20-page document.

Also, the Air Pollution Control System (ESP) installed by Project Proponent in their Nagpur project has failed. All the information is available online. So how can Project Proponent promise that there will be no air pollution from the project? If the Kalu River is 1.0 km away from the project, how can project proponent say that it will not be polluted? Also, have project proponent conducted a Hydrological Study of the entire area? Hydrological Modeling should be carried out.

Environmental Consultant replied that ESP system will not be implemented in this project. Bag house will be used. Bag house will be used at all transfer stations. ESP system will not be used anywhere.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, told Project Proponent and Environmental Consultant that the concerned person had specific questions:-

- a) Has a hydrological survey been carried out?;
- b) Whether company's treated industrial effluent and treated domestic effluent will be discharged into the Kalu River?

Answers should be given.

Project Environmental Consultant informed that treated industrial effluent will not be discharged outside the project because the entire project is a Zero Liquid Discharge project. Domestic effluent generated in the project will be treated in the project's STP and it will be recycled and reused for green belt development and dust spraying within the project itself.

Similarly, a question was asked about the hydrological survey. This is a draft Environmental Impact Assessment report. It will be included in the final Environmental Impact Assessment report after the public hearing.

It is mandatory and required to follow all the guidelines of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. Accordingly, we have to do all the studies. Else the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai not assess the project at all.

Shri Parag Dashrath Patil objected that there are many discrepancies in the EIA report. There is no mention of FRA. Also, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), the PM2.5 level is 25.0 Nm/ug, but in the cement factory area, it exceeds 50-100 micrograms. Have you created awareness about this because this project is in the middle of the city?

Project Environmental Consultant explained that during the baseline environmental survey in the area, air pollution surveys were conducted at eight different locations. The air pollution levels there are within the standards prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

After the project is established, when the project becomes operational, bag houses and bag filters will be installed to ensure that they remain within the standards issued by Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Accordingly, as approved by the Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Online Continuous Ambient Air Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) will be operational full-time in the project. Its connections will be connected to Central Pollution Control Board's office in New Delhi and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's headquarters in Mumbai. Therefore, if the air level slightly exceeds the prescribed standards, an immediate warning will be given.

Shri Parag Dashrath Patil objected that Environmental Consultant had carried the survey for only three months – October, 2023 to December, 2023. Here, we need to conduct a survey every season, i.e. for an entire year. This means project proponent is making deals with lakhs of people based on the findings of three months data only.

Environmental Consultant said that as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to conduct a baseline survey for at least three months, and this study remains valid for three years.

Shri Parag Dashrath Patil objected that there are many errors in this EIA report and hence we will file our application in National Green Tribunal, Western Zone, Pune.

He further appealed to Environmental Public Hearing Committee that this is not a cement project, but a cancer-spreading project. Local people allege that Environmental Public Hearing Committee is showing the way for the proposed company to implement the project. We will sacrifice our life, but we will not allow the cement project to be commissioned here.

11) Maya Kamble, Republican Sena, Incharge Thane District:-

As a local citizen, I object to this cement project, as one participant has just been told to increase the incidence of cancer in the area. Cancer and lung diseases are going to spread due to this project. We are totally opposing this Cement Grinding Project. Project Proponents are playing with the lives of common people.

Some people will get good salaries. But people will suffer from respiratory diseases due to the particles of cement production. So, should we fall victim to this disease because we will get opportunities of jobs?

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that in accordance with the objections raised by Maya Kamble, an explanation should be provided what are the health problems in the area due to the proposed project.

Maya Kamble also demanded that the long pending dues of previous M/s. National Rayon Company workers be paid immediately.

12) Shri Nitin Maru Nikam, Corporator, Kalyan-Dombivali Mahanagar Palika, President, Me Kalyankar Social Institute:-

This Environmental Public hearing has been organized by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board regarding the proposed project. All the procedure is to deceive us, since the last eleven years, I have been agitating for the pollution of Ulhas River.

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has cheated me five times by giving me written and verbal answers. What good can we expect from them? They cheat us every time. He appeals to people from all parties to forget their differences and not to keep quiet and ensures the project is not get commissioned. The Adani project should be thrown; the future of your children is at stake. These are all scammers. I have had a good experience with this. When river gets polluted, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board people do not take any action against the company. So, what action will be taken against Adani? Hence, completely oppose this destructive project. This project is going to damage our agriculture and we will suffer various diseases. The incidence of diseases like asthma, TB, cancer is going to increase. Ambivali station is nearby to the project, lakhs of people travel every day here, this is an attempt to play with their lives.

This Adani Group has also taken up land at Kalyan East. There is a railway track, he can also bring a destructive project there in the future.

However, he appeals to every one of the villages that nothing will happen here at this public hearing. They will do as they want, however, we will do what we need. He further appeals to everyone that we do not want this project to be commissioned here.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to all participants that issues of employment and health were raised in the meeting. Questions were raised regarding pollution. Questions have also been raised regarding the pending salary arrears of the employees of the former company M/s. National Rayon Company. Apart from this, if there are any other issues, it should be raised.

If people are raising same kind of issue then we may miss another important issue. However, suggestions, views, or objections regarding other topics should be raised.

13) Shri Sham Gaidkwad, Republican Party of India and on behalf of All Colleagues of this Area:-

He asked some questions to Environment Public Hearing Committee that, "Who will give technical answers to questions?" because project proponent planned to produce about 50.0 lakh MT of cement, and project proponent says there will be no pollution from the project. He further informed that; we all know that the help Central Government and the State Government have done for the Adani Group. Project promoters will try to complete the project; however, they will do everything they want but we will do whatever we want. This area where we live is the area of the valleys of Ulhas River, Bhatsa River, Kalu River, and Waldhuni River. This area has now become a city and this cement grinding project is proposed in the city area. Hence, the question to project proponent is whether they will use a kiln in the proposed project or not? A precise answer should be given.

Environmental Consultant said that "kiln" will not be used in this project.

Shri Gaikwad further said that if a kiln is not used, then if a temperature of 1400 to 1700 degrees Celsius is required for crushing, then what fuel you are going to use to achieve the temperature?

Environmental Consultant said that such a temperature would not be required. It is just a grinding unit.

Shri Gaikwad immediately replied that the project proponent is misleading.

Shri Gaikwad further said that a part from obtaining temperature of 1400 to 1700 degrees Celsius for crushing, which ore are being used as a raw material and whether it contents calcium carbonate or not?

Environmental Consultant replied that this is not an Integrated Cement Plant, hence there will be no production of clinkers from the Rotary Kiln. The raw material directly received by rail.

Shri Gaikwad asked will you grind it at high temperature or not? Environmental Consultant denied it.

Shri Gaikwad asked how it would be then converted into cement.

Environmental Consultant said that it would only be grinding by mill.

Shri Gaikwad further asked, "Can project proponent be assured that the pollution that will cause during grinding, cadmium and mercury, will not be released?"

Environmental Consultant said that only Particulate Matter (PM) and cement dust will be released. It will be collected in the bag house.

Shri Gaikwad objected that the questions asked were not answered properly. It contains pollutants, Mercury and Thallium, this is bound to be released in the chemical process. Will it not be released from this project?

Convener, *Environmental Public Hearing Committee* informed **Environmental Consultant** that question was very clear. Will heavy metals cadmium, nickel and mercury be released in this process? If they are going to release, then from which process it will be released?

Project proponent replied in Hindi and said that the project that is going to be established here is not an Integrated Cement Plant. Our Integrated Cement Plant is in Chandrapur. The clinker produced at high temperatures, at 1500 degrees Celsius, in the Chandrapur plant will be brought here by rail and road and mixed with fly ash. Using fly ash here because the fly ash that is stored at Chandrapur plant will going to be used as a value-added product at this site.

This Project is Zero Liquid Discharge project and this entire area is a notified as "Industrial Zone". In this project, the coal will not be used, it is just a grinding and packing unit. The grinding unit falls under "Orange Category".

Shri Gaikwad objected that now the project officer says that coal will not be used, but in previous discussion, the Environmental Consultant informed that coal will be used here in the project. Coal will be used as fuel for the generator. Further they also informed us that coal ash that will be produced will be taken to the grinders. But now they are giving incorrect information. This means both the environmental consultant and the project promoter are confused.

Project Proponent said that diesel will be used as a fuel to the DG set, and it will be used only for power back up in case of emergency. We will procure energy (electricity) from the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company and no power plant in this project.

Shri Gaikwad asked whether coal will be used or not

Project Proponent said that coal will be used during the start-up of the project.

Shri Gaikwad objected to table No. 1 of report, in the raw material in schedule No. 6 at sr. no. 5 coal consumption 2 X 0.07 MMTPA (maximum) and 2 X 0.03 MMTPA (minimum) coal is mentioned.

Project Proponent informed that the use of coal is for generation hot gas and not used in cement project.

Shri Gaikwad specifically asked whether coal will be used in the project or not.

Project Proponent replied that coal will be used only in the initial stage, it will be used for the hot air gas generator. Therefore, the gas generated will be absorbed along with the clinker inside the mill. It will not be emitted into the atmosphere.

Shri Gaikwad expressed the opinion that they are not satisfied with this answer. Project proponents are giving wrong information.

Shri Gaikwad Next objection – Project proponent said that generation of water pollution from the project and effluent will be processed in Sewage Treatment Plant provided by project proponent. As we know, the Sewage Treatment Plant provided by Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation, Ambarnath Municipal Council, Kulgaon-Badlapur Municipal Council not working properly.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee appealed to Shri Gaikwad to register suggestions/objections only regarding the proposed project.

Shri Gaikwad objected that without an outlet, how can there be a sewage treatment plant? This Environment Public Hearing is a farce and we do not agree. Further he appealed all participants that if we all unite and considering that ours is highly sensitive area. *Our children, and the next generation has to be become healthy, we must raise a mass movement – Adani Hatao, Our Area Bachavo.*

The project officers are just reading the scripts given. Hence, we will not allow this project here.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, acknowledged Shri Gaikwad and appealed to participants not to raise the issues which are discussed earlier.

Chairman of the Committee remarked that Questions were asked about providing employment to local people, about pollution, about whether the company's pollution would pose a threat to the health of local people and about the pending dues of M/s. National Rayon Company workers,

However, if there are any other issues, questions should be asked.

14) Shri Vilas Randhave, At Post – Atali, Vadvali, Ambivali, Shahad, Atali village, Vadvali Village, District-Thane-

He raised some points-

Revenue Officer, who was deputed at that time shall give the answer. The land of National Rayon Company was transferred to the M/s. Adani Group even though the salary of poor workers is pending. Provide the reply in this public hearing.

The complainant is spokesperson from the farmers' organization Kisan Sabha, he asked when project proponent conducted an environmental survey within a radius of 10 km from the proposed project site, how many local farmers were involved in the environmental survey? Also, provide a list of project proponent and Environmental Consultants who conducted the survey and an explanation also should be provided about the criteria set to conduct the survey.

He further informs that there is opposition to the proposed cement project, from the workers also. On behalf of the Kisan Morcha and on behalf of the farmers, he further informs that the farmers have not been taken into confidence, do not betrayal the farmers and do not allow the project.

15) Shri Raman Vishnu Tare, Shivsena Vibhag Chief:-

He appealed to committee of public hearing, which was on the stage that, all the people present here are against the cement project, bring other project, but not allow the cement project.

Participants have asked many questions, to which the project proponent has only answered that *there will be no pollution due to the project. The location of the project is Ambivali which is in Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation area, and the project location is in the city.*

Further he informs that they don't want a cement project at this site and requested to bring another project, like an IT park, college.

He then appraises faith in the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and shows the opposition of the people for this cement project hence requested once more to bring another project. Additionally requested to order the concerned to pay the pending salary arrears of the workers of the National Rayon Company.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed that if there are any other issues apart from the questions raised, they should be raised. If an issue raised earlier is reiterated, it will not be considered.

16) Marim Jafar Hussain, Women President, Irani Society:-

Thousand members of Iranian community living here, all the villagers live together in harmony. Previously, when there was rayon factory, many of our family members suffered from cancer. Previous unit emitted a very foul smell. After that, the factory was shut down and now M/s. Adani Group is installing unit here. She asked when unemployment was at that time where are these people? Now ten thousand people have come here to stay, and if the factory starts, not just one lakh, but ten crores' people will come / live here. She further informed that Iranian society is such that they kill each other and throw away, others may be afraid, but we are not.

Secondly, she said that the villagers/workers of M/s. National Rayon Company dues is still pending. If the M/s. Adani Group thinks that they will start a cement factory and lure them with jobs and pay them 30,000-40,000 rupees. A fish seller, a vegetable seller of this area is living in a building in a flat worth Rs. 50 lakhs so do not think about giving bribes to the people. Forget anything and don't want a cement factory here. There are many projects, bring them here. We will support you.

17) Shri Rajesh Waghmare, Mohane-Titwala Congress Party Chairman, Bhim Shakti, Thane District President:-

He is a representative of the Congress party and resident of this area and has taken objection for this Environment Public Hearing. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board organized a Environment Public Hearing related to the proposed cement project. He informed that the people of Mohane village and other Gram Panchayat areas are present for the public hearing. Many of the technical issues have been raised and discussed with you.

He requested to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board that the questions raised by the participants and the answers given to them are recorded and after the report is prepared, the report should be published, so that they will understand the answers that have been given by project proponent / committee.

Secondly, he informed that whether it is a grinding unit or any other project, it should be in the interest of the public in whichever area it is established, and it should generate employment. From the Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared for this project does not show employment generation in this area, hence residents of Mohane, Titwala area is opposing this project. If Maharashtra Pollution Control Board approved this project we will file application in a court against Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Congress party starts people's movement and delegation from residents of Mohane and Titwala will approach Rahul Gandhi to protest Adani project.

18) Vaishali Wagh, Secretary, Mahila Congress:-

She informed that, they have submitted their suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Hence, this project should not be allowed to commission. Let people of this area be breathe freely. If they cannot breathe freely, they will not be able to agitate. If the project is approved, all the women and youth will come out on the streets for protest, and it will be difficult to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to answer. She further informed that they do not want M/s. Adani cement project at this place, but they want their land.

19) Shri Ravindra Chandramma Ullare, Shivsena, Balasajeb Thakare :-

There is a say in Marathi that की ज्या गावाला जायचे नाही, त्या गावाचा रस्ता विचारायचा नाही. This public hearing on the environment regarding the cement project is a scheduled public hearing. Further they openly say that they will not allow this cement project to be commissioned here. Matang Samaj Sangha will actively participate in this mass movement. Jai Bhim, Jai Lahu, Jai Maharashtra.

20) Shri Ramdas Yeshwant Walsepatil, Rashatrawati Congress, Sharadchandra Pawar Group:-

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has organized public hearing for the proposed project of Adani Cement. Don't consider that people are just present for public hearing and complete the procedure. Further he mentioned that, this is Adani's Golmej Parishad, because the answers are giving by project proponent i.e. representative of cement plant. He questioned committee that do you agree that global warming has increased?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, suggested that environmental suggestions and objections be registered regarding the proposed project only.

Shri Ramdas Walsepatil here questioned that due to this project, whether global warming will increase or not?

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to give answer that due to this project whether temperature of the project area will increase or not?

Project Proponent replied that this project would not increase the temperature in the area. He informed that all the standards as prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board would be strictly followed.

Shri Ramdas Walsepatil here suggested that previous M/s. National Rayon Company has not paid salaries of workers, and they should be paid. This issue should be taken seriously.

Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, said that previously same question has been raised. This Environment Public Hearing is conducted as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as passed by Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Suggestions, views or objections raised by the participants have been noted and it will be submitted to Maharashtra Government. The committee does not take any decision.

Shri Ramdas Walsepatil here remarked that Everyone will express their opinion, suggestions, objections, and opposition regarding the project, the same question will be repeated. *We will oppose this project even if it means losing our lives in the process of our protest.*

21) Sandhya Sathe, Rashatrawadi Congress Party:-

She has come on behalf of the Nationalist Party. Although the local people have raised this issue before, she suggests it again. Proposed project may cause dust particles to be mixed into the atmosphere, causing environmental degradation and having adverse effects on nature and human life. Though project proponents have given the answers. The pollution of the atmosphere that breathe will not stop. Nationalist Congress Party is openly opposing the proposed cement project. They are ready to protest no matter how many times they have to.

22) Shri Arjun Budha Patil, Residence-Atali, District-Thane, Former NRC Worker:-

He asked question M/s. National Rayon Company is closed since year 2009. M/s. National Rayon Company workers have been suffering from exile for the last 16 years. If no one has received their dues, will Adani pay the dues of the unpaid workers?

Project Proponent replied that we are representatives of the cement project. We are present here today for a public hearing on the environmental impact of cement grinding. Therefore, we cannot say anything. However, we will accept whatever decision the Government takes.

Shri Arjun Patil informed that projects will not be allowed to be built here until the workers' arrears are paid. The people of all these areas are opposing this project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions have been noted.

23) Shri Sanket Hindurao, Residence-Maral, Kalyan:-

He said that this Environmental Public Hearing has been organized in accordance with democratic principles. Democracy means Government of the people, for the people, by the people. All the people present at the meeting have expressed their disapproval of the proposed cement project. Accordingly, as per the people's demand and his demand this project should not be implemented here.

If we must respect the context of democracy, we should not take the next step. All the members of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee present are experts in their respective fields.

Further he personally informs the representatives of the M/s. Adani Group present for public hearing that the proposed project is being planned in a suspicious manner.

Project Proponent will use the local resource, i.e. planning of use of water, for the proposed project, which will 600.0 KLD of water – i.e. 6.0 lakh litres per day. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report does not show from where the water is taken or lifted. Project proponent have stated that a decision will be taken only after receiving approval from the notified department.

The current quality of the Ulhas River and Kalu River water in the area is now critical. Even officers of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board will drink river water with his bare hands. However, Project promoter/project consultant states in their environmental report that the natural water resources here are in good condition.

If Project Proponent is going to extract 600.0 KLD of groundwater, can project proponent tell what will happen to the groundwater level in the area? There is a water problem within 10 km of the project location. So how are project proponent going to develop the water source as a project promoter?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to clarify their stand regarding use of 600.0 KLD groundwater. From where are project proponent going to get the water, and will adopt rainwater harvesting, etc. to maintain the groundwater level after it is used?

Project Proponent replied that they will not lift 600.0 KLD of water from the river. Then Shri Sanket Hindurao asked that does that mean that 600.0 KLD of water will be extracted from the ground every day? That means project proponent are going to damage the natural water source.

Project Proponent said that groundwater extraction will be carried out only with the permission of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), a notified department of the Central Government.

At that time, many participants raised objections and asked why a public hearing was being held if permission was not granted.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here clarified that with the consent of the public and considering the minutes of the public hearing which includes the suggestions/views/objections raised by the people, an Environment Clearance has to be obtained first from the Government of India/Government of Maharashtra by the project proponent. Then other statutory permissions are granted to the industry.

Shri Sanket Hindurao objected that Project Proponent cannot lift the ground water from our area. He further informed that they are completely opposing the company for extracting ground water from their area for commercial purpose.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed that your objection for extraction of ground water by the proposed project is noted.

Shri Sanket Hindurao requested Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to reject the Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted by the Project Proponent, because they have not studied the availability of water as a raw material. Hence, the EIA report submitted by the company should be rejected.

Convener informed that objection has been noted.

24) The person attended the public hearing questioned Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, are they on the side of the people or from Adani? Because they have seen public anger in the public hearing. Therefore, are they going to inform Government that this factory should not be located here?

He further given the example of if five kilos of rice is grinded, twenty grams of dust particles are released. Here the company is giving false information to the local people that there will be no pollution while grinding 6.0 MMTPA of cement. Adani is the second East India Company in India and the present person informed that they are opposing it with all their power. They will not allow the cement factory to at this location.

24) Shri Deepak Sapkal, Residence-Atali, Social Media Chief, Bhiwandi Lok Sabha Constituency:-

After reading the public notice for Environmental Public Hearing published by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, many local people and project affected persons (PAPs) have submitted objections to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. However, conducting a public hearing on the land owned by the project means that we have made ourselves slaves of the company. Heavy police deployment has been called for this public hearing. This is done to create panic among the local people and those who have raised objections. Where was this terror when the previous M/s. National Rayon Company had wiped out the debts of the poor workers for many years and forced them to flee the country, starving them to death? Similarly, he asked who has given permission to demolish the company's buildings when the previous company had an outstanding debt of more than 150 crores should be investigated first. An inquiry should be initiated where the scrap worth crores of rupees belonging to the previous company, (NRC), Govt. of India disposed. An inquiry should also be conducted regarding the unauthorized construction of warehouses present at this site. He further asked that if the tax is not paid, water connection will not provide. If the house

rent/residential tax is not paid, then water connection is not provided. Here, an answer should be given as to how such a big project is going to be commissioned here.

He has given references to previous industry that, when the boiler used to start i.e. M/s National Rayon Company, black soot / dust is to fall on their houses. In the morning, it was observed that utensils would be black and yellow. This may happen after starting of cement company also. Here, fishing communities carry fishing activities in the river, their livelihood will be affected due to proposed cement factory. Previous company is shutdown, taxes are pending, then how new company can start here. Previously, there was to fall black soot now after cement project starts white soot will fall.

Hence, villagers from Ambivali, Atali, Mohane demand that this project should not be commissioned and detailed enquiry should be carried out regarding above objections. How warehouses are built without prior approval. How illegally many trees have been cut. If common man cut single tree, police take action and concerned persons must plant ten trees. Hence enquiry should be conducted for trees which are cut by the project proponent.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee show gratitude towards people for attending Environment Public Hearing in a large number. Suggestions, views, objections raised during the meeting have been noted and it will be included in the minutes of the public hearing, and it will be submitted to Maharashtra Government. Efforts have been made to give answers/explanation by project proponent, Environment Consultant and also by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for the questions and suggestions raised during the meeting. If you still have some questions to ask or give, you can also submit them in writing. All the questions have been recorded, and we will convey your voice to the Government.

25) Shri Dinanath Vasant Patil, Residence-Mohane Koliwadi, District – Thane:-

His house is 1.0 km away from this project. The raw material that will be coming for this company will be brought through railway wagons. But how the product produced in this project will go?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed project proponent to clarify how the raw material will bring in the company premises and how finished product will be go outside the factory?

Project Proponent informed that raw material of the company will be delivered by railway only. And finished products will be sent by railway and by road.

Shri Deenath Patil further asked the question that how raw material will bring here whether by closed wagon or covered wagon.

Project Proponent replied that the incoming raw material – clinker – would be transported by rail wagons wrapped in tarpaulins. The bulk cement for the project will arrive via rail, capsules, and trucks, as used in Mumbai.

Shri Dinanath Patil further asked whether project proponent have prepared a Traffic Management Plan for vehicles to and fro.

Project Proponent said that the project has many gates. Even today, logistics transactions are carried out. Future transport does not happen through the main gate. Also, we will planned cement vehicles movement.

Shri Dinanath Patil remarked that large number of vehicles will be required for transportation, it means pollution will happen. Further asked how many trees have been cut? Provide statistics.

Project Proponent said that no trees will be cut down.

Shri Dinanath Patil inform that there is oppose to the cement factory by Koliwadas, local people, residents of Aagri Community, Koli Community/Fishermen Community, Other residing communities.

26) Shri Mayur Patil, Former Corporator, Shiv Sena Convener, Kalyan West:-

He informs that Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed Cement Project was held today by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan Office. Its public notice was published and accordingly, he have registered his fifteen-page objection to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan Office on September 10, 2025 and have recorded my points in the objection. Local people and citizens of the area affected by the project as well as brothers and sisters are present here in large numbers from 11.00 am. All sections of society are present here, all of them have shown their disapproval. Thousands of local citizens and project-affected people may have registered objections.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Kalyan Office is in receipt of more than 2,900 suggestions, views, objections.

Shri Mayur Patil asked whether written replies will be given to the objections raised in written?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions, views, objections raised during the meeting are noted and will included in the minutes of the public hearing. Minutes will be prepared in Marathi and English. Public hearing minutes, written suggestions/objections received by post/hand over personally/email after approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing submitted through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai. Photocopy of the written suggestions/objections are kept for reference.

Shri Mayur Patil said that their community members, local people who will be affected by the project, are present. He congratulates everyone. He further speak that because the fight cannot be done alone, it has to be done together. It should be noted that although the project proponent gave answers to the suggestions and objections in the meeting, they are not satisfactory answered, it should be noted.

He further updates that it should inform the Government that during this public hearing, the participants have raised objections but project project has not given satisfactory answers regarding the environmental aspects of the proposed project.

He further updated that he is a public representative and a former Corporator. A few years ago, Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation was declared a "Smart City." Can we give justice by implementing polluting projects that endanger people's lives in a smart city area?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the objections raised by you have been recorded and will be submitted to the Government.

Shri Mayur Patil said that the above question he asked is a new question because the Public Hearing Committee on Environment has repeatedly appealed that the same questions should not be asked.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that proposed project has not been approved. You have given good suggestions and proposals here. We will submit these suggestions and proposals to the Maharashtra Government. This Committee does not take any decision.

Shri Mayur Patil informed to take note of this, because Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation has been designated as a "Smart City" by Central Government. Central Government has allocated a lot of funds to Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation. In the coming days, Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation will come into existence as a well-equipped municipal corporation in all of Maharashtra. Implementing such polluting projects here means playing with the lives of the people.

M/s. National Rayon Company located in my constituency. There are many citizens and residents since the M/s. National Rayon Company was in operation. Houses have been built for workers; there are still many people living. A one and a half year ago, a small explosion took place and the roof of the building collapsed. We have complained to District Administration about it. If such projects are to be established in the future, they will also be playing with residents' lives. Hence, he humbly requested with folded hands that all the footage and minutes of this meeting should be made available to the public. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has given us the Constitution, according to which there should be no injustice against any citizen and opposed this project.

While concluding the meeting, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the minutes of this meeting will be made available on the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board website. There is no need to contact the Kalyan Office for some. Many citizens have registered suggestions and objections in the meeting. Thanks to them. The public hearing is conducted to find out the suggestions and objections of the public regarding this project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee inform that suggestions, objections raised during the meeting by the participants have been noted and it will be submitted to Government. Apart from this, if citizens desires to register any written suggestions, ideas, objections, they can register them. He further recognizes all for

the co-operation and as a Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declare that this public hearing is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed about 2900 herewith suggestions/objections which are received.


(Upendra Kulkarni)

Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-1,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kalyan


(Jayawant Hajare)

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


(Harishchandra Patil)

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