

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF WCL KOLGAON EXPANSION (DEEP) OPENCAST COAL MINE FOR INCREASE IN PRODUCTION CAPACITY FROM 0.60 MTPA TO 0.80 MTPA & INCREASE IN MINE LEASE AREA FROM 397.25 HA TO 520.60 HA LOCATED IN TAHSIL WANI, DIST. YAVATMAL BY PROJECT PROPONENT AREA GENERAL MANAGER, WESTERN COAL FIELDS LTD., WCL WANI AREA, TAL. WANI, DIST. YAVATMAL

Date : 20/04/2026
Time : 11:00 AM
Place : Manoranjan Kendra, Kailashnagar Colony, Mungoli Sub Area, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal, Maharashtra -445304.

Preamble:-

Project Proponent Area General Manager, Western Coal Fields Ltd., WCL Wani Area, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal has applied to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department (MoEF & CC) Govt. of India, (Gol), New Delhi for permission of carrying out the study in the radius of 10 k.m. of project and preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for obtaining Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Expansion of WCL Kolgaon Expansion (Deep) Opencast Coal Mine for increase in production capacity from 0.60 MTPA to 0.80 MTPA & increase in Mine Lease area from 397.25 Ha to 520.60 Ha located in Tahsil Wani, Dist. Yavatmal, Maharashtra.

The proposed project has been approved by the MoEF & CC, Gol, New Delhi and Terms of Reference (ToR) was sanctioned on 10/05/2024 & amended TOR was issued on 07/04/2025. As per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, the environment study should be carried in the radius of 10 km from the project site before environmental public hearing and to include in the final environmental impact assessment report the environmental issues raised by the project affected people about the proposed project. As the proposed project falls under Category A-1 (a), it is mandatory to the Project Proponent to obtain prior Environment Clearance (EC) from MoEF & CC, Gol, New Delhi.

Project Proponent Area General Manager, Western Coal Fields Ltd., WCL Wani Area, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal, has applied Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 15/12/2025 for conducting Environment Public Hearing. District Collector, Yavatmal, Maharashtra State, vide their letter dtd. 09/03/2026 in co-ordination with MPCB Chandrapur Office, approved to hold a public hearing on 20/04/2026.

As per EIA Notification, 2006, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Chandrapur in the Local Newspaper in Lokmat & Navrashttra, Nagpur Edition for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily The Times of India for English on 13/03/2026. An appeal is made to residents of the area, environmental organizations, residents to be displaced by the project or residents to be affected by the project in any other way to submit their views, comments, suggestions or objections about the proposed project in writing or by email to the local MPCB Chandrapur office till the date of public hearing.



Also copy of draft EIA report and executive summery in Marathi and English were made available at various notified offices of Government for the observation, study and comments of the local people as under:-

- (1) Environment Department, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032
- (2) Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 2nd and 4th Floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-400022
- (3) Regional Office, New Secretariat Building, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change. Opposite VCA Stadium, Civil Lines Nagpur-1.
- (4) Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
- (5) Collector Office, Yavatmal.
- (6) Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal.
- (7) District Industries Center, Yavatmal.
- (8) Sub-Divisional Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (9) Municipal Council, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (10) Tahsil Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (11) Panchayat Samiti Office, Wani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (12) Gram Panchayat Kolgaon, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (13) Gram Panchayat Chikli, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (14) Gram Panchayat Takli, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (15) Gram Panchayat Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal.
- (16) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board: www.mpcb.gov.in

It is also informed to the notified government departments (Sr.no.05 to 16 as above) about giving wide publicity at their level regarding Environmental Public Hearing.

The public hearing was thus widely publicized following the due procedure as per the Notification, so that it would be convenient for the project affected or concerned persons to register their views, comments, suggestions or objections with the concerned department. As per the directives, the public consultation is arranged on the project site.

As per the EIA Notification as issued by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi dated 14th September, 2006, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Office Order dated 20/04/2026 as under :-

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| 1) District Magistrate-Yavatmal
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | - | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai | - | Member |



Regional Officer – Chandrapur,
MPCB, Udyog Bhavan, Chandrapur

- 3) Sub Regional Officer-Chandrapur - **Convener**
MPCB, Udyog Bhavan, Chandrapur

This office is in receipt 16 notices, complaints, statements, objections regarding the above project and the persons / concerned institutions have been informed to attend the public hearing and submit their views, opinion, suggestions or objections if any complaints, statements, objections.

The attendance sheets of the participants during the public hearing as well as the Order of the Environment Public Hearing Committee constituted by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board are attached herewith as **Annexure-I & II.**

Minutes of the Environment Public Hearing:-

At the beginning of the meeting, Shri. Sushilkumar Rathod, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Anil Khandagale, Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Tanaji Yadav, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Project officials, Journalists, NGOs working in the field of environment and local people who were present in large number and informed all the procedure of the public hearing. He appealed all the participants to raise views, doubts, ideas, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. He said that the public hearing is organized for the local people and the project affected persons, so that the environmental issues and doubts would be resolved.

Convener of the meeting further informed that this meeting is arranged to know the feelings, suggestions or objections of the local people for the proposed project in environmental angle only and this Committee has no right to sanction, reject or recommend the proposed project. The suggestions or objections received during the meeting will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting in Marathi and in English and it will be submitted alongwith Final EIA report, the written suggestions/objections with the approval of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee through MPCB Head Office to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly.

Convener of the meeting further informed that as per the provisions of the Notification, the meeting is being photographed and video is being shot and after the presentation, the participants can raise their questions, suggestions, thoughts and objections. The Project Environmental Consultant or Project Proponent will answer the same. While asking questions, first inform your full name and residence village.

With the permission of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Convener asked Environment Consultant to give presentation of details of the proposed project.



Project Consultant informed regarding expansion of the project and Environment Management Plan in local language Marathi. Following points were explained in the meeting:-

Detailed Information of the Project -

- Project Area, Latitude-Longitude, Map, Submerged Area, Beneficiary Area, Forest Area, Project; Features, Project Significance, Consequences, Land Use, Earthquake Stability;
- Project objectives, social status, employment opportunities, development of farmers due to the project;
- Project analysis, summary, findings;
- Analysis of social and economic status
- Information about air, water, land, sound, project affected areas etc.
- Impact and management of air, water, displacement, biodiversity due to planned project
- Information on environmental management after project implementation
- Information on other environmental management

After presentation was made through PPT by the company, the Convener appealed to the participants to raise their environmental suggestions or objections about the proposed project. While raising questions, inform the full name, village. He also informed Project Environment Consultant and Project Proponent to give appropriate answers.

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

- 1) **Mrs. Kalpana Ramesh Tonge, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The agricultural land mentioned in Section 4 for acquisition of land within the jurisdiction of Yenak village has been reduced by 19.55 hectares in Section 7. The excluded agricultural land is adjacent to the project area, and farmers are likely to face difficulties while cultivating it due to factors such as dust pollution affecting crop yield, waterlogging in fields caused by dumping activities, and disturbances from wild animals, etc. Furthermore, since these lands were	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.

	included in Section 4, the farmers had already carried out financial transactions based on the expectation of acquisition. As a result, those farmers have now become effectively landless. Therefore, it is requested that information be provided as to whether there is any provision available for acquisition of the remaining land as well.	
2	Even though approximately 15 months have passed since the land was acquired, the project-affected persons have not yet been provided employment. Furthermore, the agreement process for the project-affected persons holding Occupancy Class-II (Bhogawata-II) land has not yet been completed. The reasons for this delay may kindly be informed. It is also requested that information be provided regarding the timeframe within which these demands will be fulfilled.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
3	Our demand is that the project-affected women and men farmers whose land has been acquired should be provided employment in this very open-cast mine. Will this demand be fulfilled? Please clarify.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
4	Will development works in the project-affected villages be undertaken through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund based on a plan of works approved and recommended by the Gram Sabha? Please provide clarification.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
5	Even though a railway line has been laid for coal transportation, coal is still being transported by trucks through the Kolgaon-Yenak-Shindola route. As a result, large-scale pollution is being caused, and agricultural crops are also suffering damage. By when will this road transportation of coal be stopped? Please provide the information.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
6	Earlier, taxes on the properties of WCL situated within the jurisdiction of the project-affected village Gram	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra



	Panchayats were being paid to the respective Gram Panchayats. However, this practice has been discontinued for the last few years. WCL has stated that the said amount is now being deposited into the Government treasury. Our demand is that, instead of depositing this fund into the Government treasury, it should be utilized for development works in the project-affected villages. Will this demand be considered and fulfilled? Please clarify.	Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
7	Due to the daily blasting carried out for coal extraction, the groundwater level in the project-affected villages is declining significantly, and cracks are developing in the walls of houses in the villages. This is a very serious issue. Therefore, information may kindly be provided regarding the measures proposed to address and mitigate these problems.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
8	Will a provision be made under the CSR scheme to provide free medical treatment to villagers of the project-affected villages who suffer from pollution-related diseases, either in WCL hospitals or in other affiliated hospitals? Please clarify.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
9	If the project involves diversion of natural streams (nallas) or is expected to generate excess water, information should be provided in the Gram Sabha meetings of the project-affected villages regarding how such water, after necessary treatment, can be utilized for agricultural purposes or as drinking water. Please provide the details.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
10	Due to the transportation of coal produced from this project, farmers' crops suffer damage because of dust and other related factors, and roads also deteriorate. To prevent such impacts, bamboo plantations should be undertaken along both sides of the transportation route, or an alternative transportation route should be developed, so that farmers do not face	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.

	inconvenience and losses due to coal transportation activities.	
11	What measures will be taken to ensure that the project does not adversely affect the productivity and agricultural potential of the farmlands adjoining the acquired land? Please provide the details.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
12	For the contractual employment opportunities generated by this project, priority should be given to unemployed youth from the project-affected villages. Our demand is that such employment opportunities be provided primarily to them. Please clarify whether this demand will be considered and implemented.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
13	Dense forests of Australian Acacia (Australian Babul) have developed on WCL's dumping areas, which have become habitats for wild animals. Since prey is readily available in these areas, tigers are also known to frequent them. As a result, a serious threat to the lives and safety of workers as well as villagers has arisen. Information may kindly be provided regarding the measures that will be taken to address this issue and ensure public safety.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
14	Furthermore, wild animals from the dumping areas cause damage to crops grown in agricultural fields located nearby. What measures will be taken to prevent such crop damage? Will WCL provide compensation to the affected farmers for the losses incurred? Please provide the details.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
15	Due to the large-scale acquisition of land in the village, dairy animal owners no longer have sufficient grazing land available for their livestock. Will any alternative fallow or suitable land be made available for such people for grazing purposes? Please provide clarification.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
16	Will new trees be planted at the site or at an alternative location to compensate for the trees that will be	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra



cut down due to the project? Please clarify whether compensatory afforestation and plantation activities will be undertaken.	Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
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2) Shri. Sandip Mahajan Jenekar, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	WCL has acquired 127 hectares of land in this area. While farmers from Kolgaon, Takli, and Chikhli will be provided employment, information may kindly be provided regarding the extent of employment opportunities that will be made available under this project to agricultural labourers who are dependent on farming for their livelihood. Due to the reduction in cultivable agricultural land, farm labourers will no longer be able to find agricultural work, and local people are also not being provided employment in WCL. The road constructed by WCL from WCL premises towards Kolgaon is of poor quality, causing inconvenience to the residents of Kolgaon. Therefore, the said road should be repaired. The road work from Kolgaon Check Post up to the Public Works Department cement road should be started immediately so that local residents do not continue to suffer inconvenience. The Area Office of WCL located at Tadali should be shifted to Wani so that local people can conveniently present their grievances and issues. Our demand is that the said office be relocated either to Punwat or Wani city. Due to blasting activities being carried out in the Kolgaon Mine, cracks have developed in houses, government schools, and healthcare facilities in Kolgaon village. WCL should conduct a survey of the affected structures and either undertake necessary repairs or	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.



provide appropriate compensation for the damage caused. The stream (nalla) diverted by WCL is causing extensive damage to agricultural crops during the monsoon season. Farmers owning lands under Survey Nos. 161/4, 161/1, 160/1, 160/2, 169/1, and 169/2 suffer substantial losses every year. WCL should immediately provide compensation to these affected farmers. WCL is allegedly avoiding responsibility by not conducting any proper survey. The spread of Australian Acacia (Australian Babul) in the surrounding area has increased the movement of wild animals, resulting in damage to farmers' crops. Therefore, the Australian Acacia vegetation should be cleared at the earliest. Whenever complaints are submitted to WCL, responses are not received. We demand that WCL provide replies to our complaints within 7–8 days. Coal extracted from WCL's Painganga Coal Mine in the Wani Area is transported through Wani Taluka, creating serious transportation-related problems. Therefore, WCL should arrange an alternative transportation route. WCL should also construct high-quality roads to reduce the likelihood of accidents. During this year, agricultural lands situated along the Borgaon–Shindola road were surveyed jointly by WCL and the Revenue Department. However, compensation has not yet been paid. Appropriate compensation should be disbursed to the affected landowners without further delay.



3) Shri. Vasant Laxmanrao Musale, Chikhali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	As per the proposal dated 01/04/2009, the Kolgaon Mine had proposed acquisition of 930.73 hectares of land. Out of this, only 520.60 hectares have been acquired, while the remaining 410.13 hectares have not yet been acquired. WCL should be granted permission for increased production only after acquiring the remaining land. Due to non-acquisition of Survey Nos. 19, 75, 67, and 71 in Takli village; Survey Nos. 18, 19, 20, and 09 in Chikhli village; and Survey Nos. 152, 197, 198, 203, and 201 in Yenak village, cultivation has become extremely difficult. On 07/04/2026, I submitted a letter to WCL's Area Office at Urjagram. Several issues have arisen because WCL has not acquired the remaining land. Letters highlighting these issues have been submitted to the Area Office at Urjagram. The Gram Panchayat of Chikhli has passed Gram Sabha resolutions twice and brought the matter to the notice of the District Collector, Yavatmal, but no action has been taken to date. Airborne dust particles settle on standing crops, resulting in a decline in agricultural productivity. These particles also enter the human body through food and cause various health problems. Continuous deposition of dust on agricultural land reduces soil fertility, eventually rendering the land barren and unsuitable for cultivation. Blasting operations carried out during coal extraction create cracks in the ground, adversely affecting agricultural crops. Mining and blasting activities are also causing groundwater levels to decline. Farmers had installed borewells to	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, informed the attendees that they should properly adjust the microphone while speaking so that their voices are clearly recorded in the video recording. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, introduced himself to the gathering.



improve irrigation and increase agricultural production; however, due to falling groundwater levels, the borewells have dried up and become unusable. As a result, many borewells had to be abandoned and removed. Cracks caused by blasting led the Gram Panchayat of Chikhli to submit representations regarding damaged houses. Although the houses were demolished following official action, compensation for the losses incurred has not yet been paid. The Kolgaon Project acquired fertile and productive agricultural land while leaving behind land that is not productive. In families whose land was acquired, often four family members depended on agriculture for their livelihood. However, only one family member was provided employment, while no alternative livelihood opportunities were created for the remaining members. Consequently, unemployment has increased, leading to social distress and addiction. The decline in agricultural production has made it difficult for families to sustain themselves, contributing to an increase in farmer suicides. Farmers surrendered their fertile black cotton soil for the project, effectively sacrificing their primary means of livelihood. The Government of India transferred the land for the Kolgaon Coal Project on 01/04/1999. Out of the total land requirement, 520.60 hectares have been utilized for the coal project, while 410.13 hectares have not been acquired. Therefore, the remaining land should first be acquired before conducting any hearing on expansion proposals. The referenced communication states that environmental clearance has been granted for an expansion project involving 392.67 hectares of mining area, including areas outside the existing mine boundary. It is also mentioned that the cadastral maps



and 7/12 land records for the expansion area were not available at the time of preparing the revised project report. This raises a serious question: how was approval granted in the absence of the project area map and land records? In the digital era, such information is readily available with the Revenue Department. It appears that the required maps and records may have been available but were not disclosed to farmers, thereby depriving them of essential information. Consequently, the relevant documents were not attached to the hearing records, making the public hearing process questionable. Since the mine area is surrounded by coal mining operations and overburden dumps where plantations have developed into dense forests, wild animals including tigers have established habitats in the area. These animals frequently enter agricultural fields and damage crops. This issue was personally brought to the attention of the General Manager at WCL Headquarters, Urjanagar, Chandrapur, on 07/04/2026. Farmers would be grateful if priority is given to completing the acquisition of the remaining land.

1. Air Environment

Blasting activities for coal extraction generate significant dust pollution. Air quality monitoring has reportedly been conducted at 12 locations, with New Kolgaon and Takli recording Air Quality Index values ranging from 70 to 79. However, no mention has been made of Chikhli village, despite its immediate proximity to the mine. Pollution levels in Chikhli are likely even higher. Therefore, pollution compensation should be provided to the residents of Chikhli from 2005 onwards. Across the river lies the Gadegaon Coal Mine, and adjacent to the area is the ACC Cement Factory.



CSR funds are generated because of such projects; however, these funds are not adequately utilized in the adopted villages. Employment opportunities are not being created. For example, the road from Chikhli to Parmdoh was constructed, but today it is hardly visible. CSR funds should be utilized for the development of adopted villages. The Gram Sabha of Chikhli recorded instances where blasting caused wall collapses leading to fatal accidents. However, no action has been taken by the authorities. It is stated that water quality was assessed and six drinking water samples were collected every month, amounting to 36 samples. However, the duration of sampling and the findings were never disclosed to villagers or Gram Panchayats, raising doubts regarding the quality and transparency of the monitoring process.

Socio-Economic Conditions

The report states that direct and indirect employment opportunities have been created. However, no concrete action has been taken by the Kolgaon Project in this regard. CSR funds have not been used for employment generation in adopted villages. Unemployment continues to rise, farmer suicides are increasing, and no meaningful infrastructure or socio-economic development has been achieved. Instead, social and economic disparities have widened, and many families are facing severe hardship.

Expected Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Although records may indicate that tree plantations have been carried out, no such plantations are visible during actual site inspections. To date, no meaningful environmental protection



measures appear to have been effectively implemented.

Pollution Control Measures

Water sprinkling on roads has not been carried out regularly. Roads have not been properly asphalted, and even when repairs are undertaken, the road surface deteriorates within a short period. Trucks transporting coal are not covered with tarpaulins, leading to increasing levels of dust pollution. Dust spreads up to 8–10 km due to wind pressure, settles on crops, and gradually reduces both crop productivity and soil fertility. Despite repeated complaints from villagers, affected farmers have not received compensation.

Government-appointed committees have submitted generalized reports, resulting in denial of compensation to farmers. No green belt plantation has been developed along the roads. Chikhli village is located barely 100 feet from the mine, causing the entire village to be covered with a layer of dust. Although it is claimed that air quality monitoring is conducted regularly as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the findings have never been shared with the Gram Panchayat. Ten mitigation measures have reportedly been proposed, but none are being effectively implemented.

Afforestation and Air Pollution Control

An inspection of plantations undertaken since the inception of the project would likely reveal that less than one percent of the claimed plantations survive. Trees are mainly visible on overburden dumps, where dense forests have developed. These forests now harbour wild animals, including tigers, which frequently attack livestock and threaten villagers. Despite repeated representations by



the Gram Sabha of Chikhli, no effective action has been taken.

Water Quality

Groundwater levels have declined significantly, and borewells no longer provide water for irrigation. Mine water entering agricultural fields has caused crop losses. This issue was brought to the notice of the General Manager, WCL Tadali, through letters from the Tahsildar, Wani, dated 05/07/2018 and 18/12/2018, and also through a letter issued by the District Collector, Yavatmal, dated 07/08/2017. However, no action has been taken. No groundwater conservation or recharge measures have been implemented. Similarly, no meaningful action has been taken concerning noise pollution.

Land Reclamation and Mine Closure

It has been acknowledged that mining causes loss of agricultural land. Therefore, action should be taken to acquire the remaining survey numbers. After completion of mining operations, the land should be reclaimed and restored to a condition suitable for agriculture and returned to the affected farmers so that future generations have a sustainable source of livelihood.

Rehabilitation of Chikhli Village

In reference to the District Collector, Yavatmal's letter No. Aka/Punarvas/Kavi/140/2020 dated 09/11/2020, instructions were issued to the General Manager, Wani North Area, Bhallar; the Sub-Divisional Officer, Wani; the Sub-Area Manager, Ukni Mine; and the Area Planning Officer, Wani North Area, directing them to take immediate action as per the applicable rules. However, no action has been taken to date. Early implementation of the rehabilitation



	process for Chikhli village is therefore requested.	
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4) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	This public hearing is being conducted for the Kolgaon Expansion Project. Land from four villages—Kolgaon, Chikhli, Takli, and Yenak—has been acquired for the project. Out of the total 127 hectares of land acquired, 101 hectares belong to Yenak village. Therefore, the public hearing should ideally have been conducted in Yenak village itself. Information may kindly be provided regarding how many farmers from Yenak village were actually able to attend this hearing. Has WCL made any transportation arrangements for the residents of Yenak to attend the public hearing? The hearing should have been organized either at the Gram Panchayat office of Yenak or in a public hall within the village. The administration of WCL is more oppressive than the British administration. During the public hearing, the views of the Sarpanches of the project-affected villages should be heard and duly considered. Previously, public hearings for the Kolgaon Mine were also conducted at the Revenue Bhavan, Wani, and at the Kolgaon Sub-Area office. However, both those hearings were subsequently cancelled. The hearings were approved only after employment appointment letters had been issued. Under the present expansion project, 127 hectares of land have been acquired, and provision exists for providing 156 jobs. However, appointment letters have not yet been	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, stated that the participants should present their issues and concerns. All questions raised would be answered collectively by the Project Proponent at an appropriate stage. The Project Proponent stated that, at present, there are 2,713 contractual workers engaged in the Wani Area, of whom 974 workers are local residents from Yavatmal District. Land for this project is being acquired from the villages of Yenak, Chikhli, Takli, and Kolgaon. Approximately 400 citizens are present at this hearing. Since Yenak village is located at a greater distance, conducting the hearing there would have created difficulties for residents of the other villages in attending. Therefore, the public hearing is being held at WCL's Community Hall. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that all the issues raised by the participants are being duly recorded. WCL will be required to provide responses to all issues raised during the public hearing. He further stated that the opinions, suggestions, and objections

issued. Information should be provided as to why these appointments have not been made. During the recently concluded Ghonsa Mine public hearing, appointment letters for approximately ten jobs were distributed. In contrast, land from Chikhli and Yenak villages has been acquired while employment is being offered in the Nagpur region. WCL appears to have changed the definition of the term "local." Our primary demand is that project-affected persons should be provided employment within the same project for which their land was acquired. If this demand is fulfilled, only then should approval be granted to this public hearing; otherwise, the hearing should be cancelled. I have reviewed the presentation submitted by WCL to the Gram Panchayat. Coal transportation in this area is carried out through public roads. Information should be provided regarding how many protests and hunger strikes have been conducted by affected farmers due to transportation-related damage and how much compensation WCL has paid. It is claimed that coal transportation vehicles are covered with tarpaulins, but this is not observed in practice. WCL administration should stop providing misleading information. Information regarding drivers transporting coal is also allegedly inaccurate, and character verification certificates are not obtained from them. Consequently, in the event of accidents, it becomes difficult to trace the responsible individuals. Therefore, I request that this public hearing be postponed and conducted only after necessary corrective measures have been implemented. My firm demand is that local people should be employed within this project itself. Due to blasting activities undertaken by WCL, groundwater levels in the area have

expressed by the citizens during the hearing are officially recorded and forwarded to the Government for further consideration and decision-making. The final decision on these matters will be taken at the Government level.

The Chairman assured the gathering that satisfactory responses to the issues raised during the hearing would be sought from WCL and that every effort would be made to address and resolve the concerns of the citizens.

He also mentioned that the District Collector handles approximately 40 subjects and the Additional District Magistrate also handles around 40 subjects. There are legal provisions available for taking action on such matters.

He further informed the gathering that he has been serving as a Rehabilitation Officer since 2001 and is well aware of the difficulties faced during land acquisition and rehabilitation processes. Appropriate action would be taken accordingly.

He assured that all matters relating to land acquisition would be examined thoroughly and that suitable solutions would be sought. Finally, he requested the participants to present their questions briefly so that it would be easier for the Project Proponent to provide responses.

already declined. Despite this, WCL is seeking permission to increase the mining depth from 100 meters to 200 meters, which may further lower the groundwater table. Clarification should be provided regarding whether compensation for loss of irrigated agriculture will be paid as a one-time settlement or on an annual basis. WCL has diverted natural streams, resulting in flood-like situations during the monsoon season and causing damage to agricultural fields. Overburden dumps obstruct natural drainage channels and prevent water from reaching higher elevations. Yenak village lies to the west of the Kolgaon Project and is situated at a higher elevation. Since water naturally flows from Yenak toward Kolgaon, clarification should be provided regarding whether WCL has diverted these watercourses. Since the commencement of the Kolgaon Project, affected farmers have submitted video evidence of losses, directives issued by the Sub-Divisional Officer, and assessments carried out by the Agriculture Department to the WCL office at Tadali. Despite this, compensation has not yet been paid. Since WCL has diverted natural streams and there are numerous deficiencies in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, this public hearing should be postponed. Local residents should be provided direct employment within the project. Information should be provided regarding the percentage of unemployed youth from Chikhli, Takli, Yenak, and Kolgaon villages who have been employed by private contractors awarded contracts for overburden removal and coal extraction. When one or two influential individuals exert pressure, their wages are reportedly started immediately. Yenak village has a population of approximately 1,400–1,500 people,



among whom a substantial number are unemployed. Similarly, unemployment is widespread in Chikhli, Takli, and Kolgaon villages. WCL assures that both direct and indirect employment will be provided but does not specify any timeline. Priority should be given to unemployed persons from project-affected villages when providing employment opportunities. As a project-affected person, I request answers to my questions. If my questions are not answered, how can this public hearing proceed meaningfully?

Information should be provided regarding:

The number of unemployed persons provided employment in Phase-I and Phase-II. The number of project-affected persons among them. Since WCL administration appears to lack adequate information on these issues, this hearing should be postponed. Information should also be provided regarding whether compensation for damage to borewells and tube wells caused by blasting and deep excavation will be paid as a one-time settlement or annually. Since WCL itself has organized this hearing in its community hall, satisfactory responses to all questions raised by the participants were expected. Out of the 127 hectares required for the project, 101 hectares belong to Yenak village. Therefore, Why was the hearing not organized in Yenak village? Why did WCL not arrange transportation for residents of Yenak to attend? Project-affected citizens should have been able to participate and present their concerns directly. Had the hearing been conducted in Yenak village, the district administration could have reviewed the CSR works undertaken by WCL. The road leading to Yenak village has



been completed under the initiative of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and is of a high standard, making transportation convenient. WCL should not mislead the Hon'ble Chairman on this matter. The commitments mentioned in WCL's presentation have not yet been fulfilled. Since the promises made during Phase-I and Phase-II remain unfulfilled, the primary question is how approval can be granted for Phase-III. The Hon'ble Chairman should decide whether the hearing should be cancelled or allowed to continue. If my observations are incorrect, WCL administration should refute them. My objections are based on the contents of the project presentation itself.

Clarification should be provided regarding whether compensation to farmers will be:

Paid as a one-time settlement, Determined according to assessments by the Tahsildar and Agriculture Department, or Paid as per WCL rules. Project-affected persons whose lands have been acquired should be accommodated within the same project. Coal transportation should not be carried out on public roads. If local residents develop health problems, they often have to travel to Chandrapur for treatment due to the lack of adequately equipped hospitals in Wani. The distance from Yenak, Kolgaon, Chikhli, and Takli to Chandrapur is nearly the same as that to Wani. Five State Transport (ST) buses used to operate in this area. However, due to deterioration of roads and bridges caused by coal transportation, bus services have been suspended. As a result, patients are unable to reach hospitals in time, and in some cases deaths occur during transit. Coal transportation has caused extensive damage to agricultural lands situated alongside the roads. The information regarding

air pollution control measures contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is entirely inaccurate. Information should be provided regarding when compensation for such losses will be paid. My brother's agricultural land has suffered damage, and despite repeated representations submitted through Hon. Shri Hansraj Ahir to WCL's Area Office at Tadali, compensation has not yet been received. After land acquisition, traditional village service providers (Balutedars) and agricultural labourers became unemployed. WCL had assured that they would be accommodated through contractors, but this commitment has not been fulfilled. WCL should ensure that at least 80% of unemployed persons from project-affected villages receive indirect employment opportunities. Although land is acquired for open-cast mines, employment is often provided in underground mines. WCL should provide training according to the educational qualifications of local residents and subsequently provide employment accordingly. Mere formal assurances are not sufficient. Until local people are provided with appropriate training and both direct and indirect employment in accordance with their educational qualifications, our lands should not be touched. I request the Hon'ble Chairman to extend support and assistance in this regard.	
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5) Adv. Rupesh Gunvant Thakare, Administrator, Gram Panchayat Mungoli, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The mine was commissioned approximately 12 years ago, and its	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-

expansion is now being proposed. I intend to raise my concerns point by point and expect point-wise responses. A public hearing has been scheduled on 20/04/2026 at the Recreation Centre, Kailasnagar Colony, Mungoli, Taluka Wani, District Yavatmal, regarding the proposal for expansion of the Kolgaon Open Cast Mine Project under WCL, Wani Area, including an increase in production capacity from 0.60 million tonnes per annum to 0.80 million tonnes per annum and expansion of the project area from 397.25 hectares to 520.60 hectares. In reality, this public hearing appears to be merely a formality. Environmental and social issues arising from industrial activities are discussed, but the assurances given are often not implemented in practice. Consequently, project-affected citizens continue to suffer significant hardships and struggles. Even at the current production level of 0.60 million tonnes per annum, local residents are facing numerous problems, including pollution, health issues, deteriorating roads, water scarcity, vibrations caused by blasting, agricultural losses, and an increasing threat from wild animals. Therefore, increasing production capacity is likely to intensify these problems. Every industrial or development project inevitably has both positive and negative impacts. WCL has contributed to the construction of bridges over the Painganga River on the Kolgaon–Virur route, over the river on the Mungoli–Nakoda route, over the Wardha River on the Belora–Ghugghus route, and the Kolgaon Phata–Shindola road. However, ordinary citizens of the surrounding area have had to endure considerable inconvenience, and some have even lost their lives in accidents. Therefore, detailed responses should be obtained from the Coordinator and the	Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.
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Project Proponent on the following questions, and the replies should be recorded in the official proceedings:

Questions:

- 1) The Coordinator of the Environmental Public Hearing should clearly explain the purpose of organizing this environmental public hearing.
- 2) The Coordinator should provide detailed information regarding what happens to the minutes and issues recorded during the public hearing and how they are processed further.
- 3) In the Mungoli-Nirguda Deep Expansion Project under WCL Wani Area, Mungoli village was rehabilitated. However, three farmers whose agricultural lands are located within the jurisdiction of Shivni (Jaha) village—(1) Keshav Kondu Pimpalshende, (2) Kantabai Kisan Pimpalshende, and (3) Dashrath Dharma Bhaskar—have a total of 2.67 hectares of land affected. What is WCL's plan regarding acquisition of their land?
- 4) Agricultural lands bearing Gat No. 104 of Mungoli and Gat Nos. 32, 263, and 266 of Shivni (Jaha) were acquired for the Mungoli-Nirguda Deep Expansion Project. WCL challenged the matter in court on the grounds of an "unregistered partition deed." However, the Sub-Divisional Officer, Additional Collector, Commissioner, and now the High Court have all ruled in favour of the farmers. As a result, the farmers have remained deprived of employment opportunities for 5-6 years and have also been unable to earn agricultural income



	because WCL excavated their lands. Will compensation be provided for this double loss suffered by the farmers? Following the order of the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court dated 27/05/2026, by when will employment be provided to these farmers?	
	5) On 15 April 2026, a tiger was sighted in the dumping area of the Kolgaon Open Cast Mine. Similar sightings occurred near the Kolgaon Check Post 2-3 months earlier. Every summer, tigers are seen in the mine area, adjoining agricultural fields, or nearby villages. Dense forests of Australian Acacia have developed on WCL-acquired lands adjacent to villages and mining areas. Will WCL conduct a survey of the entire area, clear these forests, and undertake environmentally appropriate plantation activities?	
	6) Since tigers appear in the area every year, creating fear among local residents and occasionally causing human casualties, what measures does WCL propose to address this issue?	
	7) By when will employment be provided to landowners whose 316.12 acres of land are being acquired for the Kolgaon Expansion Open Cast Mine Project?	
	8) What is WCL's policy regarding providing employment to affected landowners within the same project or at least within the Wani Area?	
	9) By when will the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) List be	



	submitted to the District Collector, Yavatmal, for approval? 10) What measures will be taken to control dust generated by coal spillage during transportation? 11) From when and in what manner will regular cleaning and maintenance of coal transportation roads be carried out? 12) When will WCL remove the accumulated coal dust from the Ghugghus–Belora bridge and its adjoining areas? 13) From June–July onwards, coal transportation from the Kolgaon, Mungoli, and Gadegaon mines is expected to be routed through the Sakhara–Mungoli–Nakoda–Ghugghus route. What concrete safety measures will be implemented to protect local citizens? 14) How many villages are affected by this project in total? 15) What development works have been undertaken so far under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund, and what is the future plan? 16) What measures have been implemented so far to protect the environment and maintain ecological balance, and what is the future action plan? 17) What systems and measures are in place for dust control? 18) Is ambulance service available for project-affected villages?	
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19) Are regular health camps organized in project-affected villages? 20) Will free medical treatment, medicines, and surgical facilities be provided in the future? 21) Beyond coal production, what specific responsibilities does the Project Proponent intend to fulfil for the welfare of citizens living in project-affected villages? Detailed responses to all the above questions should be obtained, recorded in the official proceedings of the public hearing, and appropriate action should be taken accordingly.	
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6) Shri. Narendra Ramdas Nande, Former Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Sakhara, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	With reference to the above subject, Mouza Sakhara (Ko) is a village with a population of approximately 300 people and is located adjacent to WCL's Mungoli-Nirguda Deep Expansion Project and the Painganga Project. Agriculture has traditionally been the primary source of livelihood for the villagers; however, most of the agricultural land has been acquired for these projects. As a result of these coal mining projects, the villagers are facing numerous problems. The activities of WCL have adversely affected public health and reduced the quality and expectancy of life of local residents. The major issues arising from WCL's operations are as follows, and it is requested that the concerned authorities be directed to resolve them:	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.



1. Acquisition of Remaining Agricultural Land:-

Approximately 90% of the agricultural land within the jurisdiction of Sakhara (Ko) village has been acquired for the Mungoli and Painganga Projects. Since only around 10% of the agricultural land remains, farmers are facing significant difficulties in cultivating the remaining land. Therefore, we request that the remaining agricultural land also be acquired.

2. Coal Dust Pollution from the Silo:-

A coal silo is located adjacent to Sakhara (Ko) village, from where coal is loaded into railway wagons. Coal dust particles are carried by the wind into the village, adversely affecting the health of residents and causing respiratory illnesses. Immediate measures should be taken to address this issue.

3. Damage to Agricultural Land from Dumping Areas:-

WCL dumping areas surround Sakhara (Ko) village on all sides. During the rainy season, runoff water from these dumping areas flows into agricultural fields, washing away the fertile topsoil. As a result, the land has become less productive and, in some cases, unsuitable for cultivation. Agricultural yields are extremely low compared to the cost of cultivation.

4. Air Pollution and Health Impacts:-

Coal mining and transportation activities undertaken by WCL have caused severe air pollution. This has had a detrimental impact on the health of local residents. People in nearby villages are suffering from various serious illnesses, and life expectancy has reportedly declined. Immediate

remedial measures should be implemented.

5. Rehabilitation of Sakhara (Ko) Village:-

Sakhara (Ko) village is surrounded by WCL operations from all sides. Coal mining activities have adversely affected the standard of living of villagers, and many people have lost their means of livelihood. Furthermore, violations of transportation norms during coal transportation have resulted in frequent accidents. Pollution has also posed serious risks to public health. Roads and communication routes have deteriorated due to WCL activities. Therefore, it is requested that Sakhara (Ko) village be rehabilitated at the earliest.

6. Threat from Wild Animals:-

Dense forests of Australian Acacia have developed on WCL dumping sites. The increasing presence of wild animals in these forests has become a matter of concern. Since prey is readily available, predators such as tigers have begun inhabiting these areas. This poses a serious threat to the lives of villagers, particularly those who travel outside the village for employment and daily activities.

7. CSR Development Works:-

WCL is expected to undertake development works in coal-affected villages through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. However, such works are either inadequate or not being implemented. Therefore, it is requested that directions be issued to ensure that village development works are carried out through CSR funds.

8. Employment for Skilled Youth:-

There are many skilled young men and women in the village who are searching for employment but remain

unemployed. WCL should provide suitable employment opportunities based on their skills and qualifications so that sustainable sources of income can be created for unemployed youth. In conclusion, we request that the issues of the coal-affected village of Sakhara (Ko) be considered sympathetically and that appropriate action be taken to resolve these problems at the earliest possible opportunity.	
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7) Shri. Vijay Pidurkar, Former Member, Zilha Parishad Yavatmal, Tal. Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	This public hearing has been organized on environmental issues. Under this project, 126.67 hectares of land are being acquired. As per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notifications of 2006 and 2009, it is mandatory that public hearings be conducted at the project site so that the residents of the affected villages can record their objections, suggestions, and representations. It is expected that the Hon'ble Chairman will ensure strict compliance with the law. The issue raised by Mr. Vijay Gargate is valid. In 2022, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) issued a letter directing WCL to completely eradicate invasive species such as Australian Acacia from the Wani Area. Information should be provided regarding whether WCL complied with the directions issued by MPCB during the period 2022-2026. Following a fatal tiger attack in the past, approximately 100 hectares of	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.



land were cleared to ensure that students and local residents travelling through the area would not face danger. Since Australian Acacia adversely affects fertile agricultural land, information should be provided as to whether compliance with the MPCB directions is being reviewed and monitored.

Since this is an environmental public hearing, the presence of agricultural experts, health experts, and specialists in water and air pollution was expected.

I respectfully submit that this public hearing regarding the Kolgaon Expansion Open Cast Mine Project of WCL, Wani Area—proposing an increase in production capacity from 0.60 million tonnes to 0.80 million tonnes per annum—has been organized today, 20/04/2026, at the Recreation Centre, Kailasnagar, Mungoli Sub-Area. Objections have been invited.

In previous public hearings, issues relating to roads, water, air pollution, and environmental protection were raised. However, WCL has allegedly violated the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Hazardous Waste Rules, 1989, resulting in losses and hardships for project-affected villagers and citizens.

Therefore, the following issues should be clarified and incorporated into the proceedings of the public hearing:

Questions and Clarifications Sought

- 1) For coal transportation between Kolgaon and the Mungoli Bridge—Ghugghus route, has WCL constructed pollution-free and safe



	roads designed according to vehicle size and load capacity? Have separate roads been provided for coal transportation and for public use? 2) Along the Kolgaon–Mungoli Bridge road: • How many kilometres of roadside plantation have been undertaken? • In which year was it carried out? • What expenditure was incurred? • How many trees remain alive today? 3) Has any chemical treatment system or tyre-washing facility been installed to prevent pollution on public roads? 4) To prevent air pollution between the mine and the Coal Handling Plant (CHP): • How many fogger machines are available? • How many times per day are they operated? 5) How many dust-arrester machines are operational for collecting coal spillage and dust deposited on roads during transportation? 6) In the acquisition of 126.67 hectares for the Kolgaon Expansion Project, employment details have not been disclosed. • How many people will be provided employment according to land records (7/12 extracts)? • Will employment be provided in the same project where land has been acquired? 7) How far are the villages of Yenak, Chikhli, and Takli from the blasting zone? • Has any impact assessment been conducted?	
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	• If damage occurs, what compensation has been provided? 8) Will the duration of private vehicle service contracts for project-affected citizens be increased from 5 years to 30 years? 9) Under the socio-economic impact assessment for Kolgaon, Chikhli, Takli, and Yenak villages, village-wise lists of educated and technically trained youth have not been included. How then will indirect employment opportunities be provided to them? 10) In the buffer-zone dust impact study, villages such as Shivni, Yenadi, Shewala, and Sawangi located to the north have not been included. Please clarify. 11) Can mine water be utilized for irrigation or other purposes? Has water from the Kolgaon Mine been used in this manner previously? 12) The report mentions that various trees will be planted on reclaimed land. However, the names of the proposed species have not been specified. Clarification is required. 13) Under WCL's skill-development initiatives, there appears to be no provision for landless agricultural labourers and traditional village service providers (Barabalutedars) dependent on agriculture. Please clarify what measures are proposed. 14) Since production in the Kolgaon Expansion Mine is undertaken through private contractors, will WCL ensure that 80% of employment opportunities are provided to local project-affected	
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	persons in accordance with Government policy? 15) The Kolgaon–Ghugghus route has remained closed for the last three years. When and how will road and Public Utility Corridor (PUC) facilities be restored and maintained? 16) Under the Environmental Responsibility (CER) provisions, an expenditure of ₹1,447.73 lakh has been proposed. Detailed information regarding the utilization of this amount should be provided. 17) If the Sarpanches of project-affected villages are instructed to submit development proposals through the Sub-Divisional Officer to the District Collector's Office, Yavatmal, then the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds could be utilized more effectively for local development. Appropriate directions in this regard may be issued. The above issues should be clarified in detail, incorporated into the official record of the public hearing, and acted upon in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.	
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8) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	As stated by Mr. Vijay Pidurkar, Mrs. Padmatai Nalamwar, an ASHA worker, and her father were allotted Occupancy Class-II (Bhogawata-II) land under the land ceiling scheme. However, this land has been acquired	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly noted and recorded.

for the project, and compensation has not been paid in accordance with Government rules. It has been informed that if 127 hectares of land are being acquired under this project, then 147 employment positions have been sanctioned. This means that WCL possesses 147 corresponding land records (7/12 extracts). According to WCL's policy, one job is provided in exchange for every two acres of agricultural land acquired. However, when a farmer owns more than two acres of land, they are often subjected to difficulties and procedural hurdles. On the other hand, if WCL employees purchase such lands, the process is made convenient for them. Such lands are reportedly purchased at low rates, and employment benefits are provided accordingly. Farmers, however, receive lower compensation, and their rehabilitation is also not carried out properly. There is widespread misinformation and misguidance among local residents regarding these matters. There are several other important issues, including development works and utilization of mineral development funds. However, the most pressing concerns remain: Lack of direct and indirect employment opportunities, Declining groundwater levels, Crop damage caused by diversion of natural streams and rivers, and Coal transportation through public roads. These issues require urgent resolution. In the Kolarpimpri area, agricultural land exists in my mother's name. As per the partition deed, this land was transferred to my name in the year 2013, and I have been paying the applicable land revenue and taxes. However, WCL has included only my mother's name in its list based on records from 2011. At the same time, the names of landholders whose lands were partitioned during 2019–20 have been included in the list,



whereas from my family only my mother's name has been included. The concerned individual subsequently registered the Occupancy Class-II (Bhogawata-II) land in his own name. Therefore, information should be provided as to whether any action will be taken against the concerned person and whether this discrepancy will be investigated and rectified.	
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9) Shri. Ashish Fulsange, Former Member, Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Many public representatives have pointed out that this area lacks several basic amenities. Furthermore, this is not the first public hearing conducted in the region. Public hearings were previously held here in 2014, 2016, and 2018. Despite repeated demands for healthcare facilities, better roads, and safe drinking water, these basic infrastructure requirements have still not been adequately provided. Earlier, answers to questions raised during public hearings were given immediately. However, for the last two to three years, responses have been provided only at the end of the hearing. Information should be provided regarding the measures taken following previous WCL public hearings. I request the Hon'ble Chairman to direct WCL to provide details of the actions taken in fulfilment of assurances given during earlier public hearings. WCL should provide information on the measures taken regarding: Pollution control, Water supply, Road infrastructure, and Employment generation. The officers present today may eventually be transferred elsewhere, but the	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, directed the WCL administration to provide information regarding the actions taken on the assurances given during previous public hearings. The Project Proponent stated that details of the measures undertaken are already mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and in the presentation made during the hearing. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that since this public hearing relates specifically to the expansion of WCL's Kolgaon Mine, participants should raise issues directly related to the expansion project. He further stated that all issues raised by the participants would be recorded, responses would be obtained from WCL, and the proceedings of the public hearing would be submitted to the



problems faced by local residents will remain unresolved. Therefore, my only request is that WCL provide information about the actions it has actually undertaken so that the local administration may also take note of the same. Most of the works carried out by WCL fall within the jurisdiction of the Zilla Parishad. Information should be provided regarding what special initiatives WCL has undertaken over the last ten years, apart from these routine works, so that local residents can genuinely feel that WCL has contributed something significant to the region. WCL reportedly provides only ₹8 lakh for certain activities, whereas private companies provide around ₹30 lakh. A vehicle is generally usable for only four years, and a replacement is required in the fifth year. Therefore, WCL should provide financial assistance for vehicle replacement. Vehicles used by contractors engaged in overburden removal are allegedly not properly registered and often do not display number plates. However, when farmers' vehicles are found in similar circumstances, penalties are imposed upon them. Coal extracted from the mines is valued at approximately ₹4,500 per tonne. WCL acquired all the land surrounding the agricultural land of a citizen present here but did not acquire his own land. His son is suffering from paralysis, and the family is facing severe hardship. There is no access road available to their agricultural field, making cultivation impossible. WCL had assured him that the land would be acquired, but it has not yet been acquired. Similarly, WCL has allegedly failed to provide adequate compensation to many farmers whose lands were acquired. In the company engaged in overburden removal, around 450 workers are employed, of whom approximately 350 are migrant	Government. Thereafter, the competent Government Committee would take a decision regarding approval of the expansion project. The Project Proponent further informed the gathering that, for the last two years, themes for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities have been prescribed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi. CSR works are undertaken in accordance with these themes. Accordingly, WCL allocates approximately 60% of its CSR funds under the prescribed thematic framework. In the future, provision has been made for installing 5 kW solar panels with battery backup systems. Information regarding the development works undertaken from 2013–14 up to the present has already been provided in the presentation. CSR expenditure details were stated as follows: • 2019–20: ₹45.98 lakh • 2020–21: ₹37.42 lakh • COVID period: ₹19.72 lakh • 2021–22: ₹58.32 lakh • 2022–23: ₹107.21 lakh • 2023–24: ₹109.70 lakh • 2025–26: ₹231.98 lakh Out of the ₹231.98 lakh allocated for 2025–26, ₹170 lakh has been earmarked for the Mungoli Area. In Yenak village, gymnasium equipment and other facilities have been provided. Additionally: • RO water purifiers have been supplied to the Zilla Parishad School at Chincholi. • A "Shantidham" (cremation/burial ground development facility) has been developed at Kolgaon, details of which were included in the presentation.
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workers from outside the region. WCL reportedly does not maintain proper records regarding such employment. The Government should have conducted a public hearing before proceeding with land acquisition. The Hon'ble Chairman should recommend withdrawal of this public hearing until the demands of local residents are fulfilled. Public hearings are meant to ensure that local residents are heard and receive justice. During the earlier public hearing at Mukutban, I had raised the issue of pollution in that area. However, no action has been taken by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to date. The area continues to experience severe pollution, and accidents caused by coal transportation have increased significantly. Coal is being transported through public roads without adequate mitigation measures. During the visit of the Hon'ble Environment Minister, pollution levels in the area were noticeably lower. This suggests that pollution control measures are implemented only when ministers visit, while on other days pollution remains severe. The health of local citizens is just as important as the comfort of visiting dignitaries. In fact, newspapers reported the following day that coal dust had accumulated on the vehicle of the Hon'ble Minister. WCL officials do not adequately listen to the concerns of local residents. A public hearing had earlier been conducted for the Mungoli Mine. Information should be provided regarding: How many trees WCL has planted in Chikhli, Takli, and Yenak villages. Whether WCL has provided ambulance facilities for local residents. It appears that WCL has repeatedly misled citizens during previous public hearings. Therefore, this public hearing should be cancelled and reconvened only after necessary corrective action is taken.	• ₹8.25 lakh has been spent on drain construction works in Chikhli village. • ₹12.40 lakh has been spent on drain construction works in Sakhara village. The Project Proponent clarified that proposals for CSR works are submitted to WCL, and development works are undertaken based on proposals received from the respective Gram Panchayat Sarpanches. It was further stated that the base price of coal produced by WCL is approximately ₹2,000 per tonne, whereas during auctions it fetches around ₹4,000 per tonne. Regarding plantation activities, the Project Proponent informed that: • 58,100 trees have been planted in Kolgaon mine. • 300,000 trees have been planted in Kolgaon village. • Tree plantation has been carried out along roadsides and within the mining area around Kolgaon. • Additional plantation is proposed in the dumping areas. The Chairman then directed WCL to submit clarification regarding land acquisition issues. He instructed that a written explanation on the matter should be submitted by WCL to the District Collector, Yavatmal. He further assured the participants that explanations from the Project Proponent would be obtained on all issues raised during the hearing and submitted to the Government. Finally, he stated that the Environmental Committee verifies and scrutinizes all such matters, and only after such verification is completed is environmental clearance granted.
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WCL has failed to provide: Safe drinking water facilities, Health camps, Free medical treatment for local residents, and Educational and training facilities. The Ghugghus, Chandrapur, and Wani regions are heavily polluted, and this area ranks among the most polluted regions in the country. Despite this, no action is taken against the industries responsible. Therefore, clarification should be provided regarding: Why notices have not been issued to WCL by the authorities, Why information regarding CSR expenditure has not been sought, Why stricter action has not been taken against polluting industries. In 2016, WCL informed Mr. Pidurkar through an official letter that his land would be acquired. However, the land has still not been acquired. Since farmers' lands have allegedly been exploited without proper acquisition and compensation, legal action should be initiated against WCL. In the Mungoli area, WCL acquired approximately 80% of local landholdings. However, around 20% of the land remains unacquired, and WCL has reportedly stated that it no longer requires those lands. Despite repeated representations, no facilities or relief measures have been provided. WCL does not provide employment to 80% of local residents, while people from outside the region are given jobs. Priority should be given to residents of project-affected villages. If skilled workers are unavailable within project-affected villages, employment opportunities should first be offered at the taluka level, then at the district level, and only thereafter to workers from outside the state. I intend to submit a representation regarding these issues to the District Collector and the Guardian Minister. Villagers have informed me that WCL has refused to acquire approximately 45% of the land



in Chikhli village. At the same time, overburden dumps are proposed to be placed in that area. Around 85% of the village land has already been acquired, and nearly 90% of the rehabilitation process has been completed. Under such circumstances, how can agriculture continue on the remaining 15% of the land? These are among the many issues on which WCL must be directed to take action. If necessary, we will have no option but to approach the Hon'ble Guardian Minister and the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister. Furthermore, local residents are increasingly suffering from various diseases. If the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board takes decisive action, many industries in the region could potentially be shut down. Therefore, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should closely monitor industries operating in this region and take effective steps to reduce pollution and protect public health.	
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10) Shri. Ganpat, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It is expected that 80% of the employment opportunities should be provided to local people. If a family owns 3 acres of land and has 3 eligible candidates, only one person from that family will be provided employment. The remaining two candidates will remain unemployed. Therefore, we expect that such candidates should be given priority in indirect employment opportunities. Appropriate directions should be issued to WCL in this regard. Even in the mines of Chandrapur district, no such provision has been made. Meetings are regularly held with WCL officials and	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that all issues raised during the public hearing are duly recorded in the proceedings (minutes) of the hearing, and the same are submitted to the Government. Thereafter, the Environmental Committee takes a decision on whether to grant environmental clearance/approval to the project or otherwise.



the administration; however, no solution has been arrived at to date. The Kolgaon and Mungoli mines are situated adjacent to each other. The agricultural lands of the residents of Kolgaon village are located in the Mungoli area. In the Kolgaon project report, agricultural lands bearing 3-4 survey numbers have not been acquired. A boundary wall has been constructed across the farmers' lands. As a result, rainwater accumulates in their fields during the monsoon season, making cultivation impossible. It has not come to notice that the Regional Officer of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has taken action against any project till date. Industries are being established in this area; however, local people are not getting employment opportunities. A letter was issued to WCL through the Sub-Divisional Officer on 15/06/2022. There are 3-4 agricultural fields in the Shindola area which have not yet been acquired by WCL, but overburden dumps have been deposited on those lands. In this regard, correspondence has also been made by the District Collector, Yavatmal, with WCL. However, no action has been taken to date. Therefore, this public hearing should be cancelled. We do not approve of this project. Criminal cases were registered against us during the public hearing process, yet the public hearing was not cancelled. Issues relating to the remaining agricultural lands, unemployment, coal transportation, and pollution should be addressed through CSR funds. WCL and the administration should resolve the problems faced by the local people in their day-to-day lives.



11) Shri. Vishwas Bodhane, Gram Panchayat Shivani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	With reference to the above, since the entire land of Mouza Shivani village is proposed to be acquired by WCL, the following demands are submitted: 1. The rehabilitation site for the village should be provided adjacent to New Shivani village or near Shivani Phata (junction). Otherwise, 100% of the agricultural land should be acquired. At present, 30% of the land in our village has been acquired, and the remaining 70% should also be acquired. Further, the village should be rehabilitated within a distance of 1 to 1.5 km from the existing village. 2. After acquisition of agricultural land by WCL, the compensation should be paid at revised and updated rates determined accordingly. 3. Employment should be provided in the same project area to farmers whose lands are acquired. 4. Compensation should be paid after reassessing and valuing village lands and houses at the revised prevailing market rates. 5. Agricultural access roads (farm approach roads) should be provided for the remaining lands to facilitate farming activities. 6. After acquisition of agricultural land by WCL, employment opportunities should be provided to unemployed persons and agricultural labourers of the village. 7. The old Shivani-Mungoli road should be kept operational and	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, stated that your concern/point has been duly noted and recorded.



	maintained until the rehabilitation of the village is completed. 8. If any loss of life, property damage, or any other loss occurs in the village or surrounding area in the future due to WCL's activities, WCL should provide appropriate compensation. Since WCL proposes to construct an embankment near the village, the stream (nala) which was earlier located about 1.5 km away will now be only about 100 metres from the village. This is likely to cause substantial damage to agricultural crops, and the possibility of loss of life cannot be ruled out. All the above matters should be fulfilled and communicated to us in writing so that the villagers are satisfied and assured.	
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12) Mrs. Jyoti Sunil Mathulkar, Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Jugad, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	A coal silo is located adjacent to Mouza Matholi (Old) village, from where coal is loaded into railway wagons. As a result, coal dust particles are carried through the air into the village, adversely affecting the health of residents and causing respiratory illnesses. This issue should be resolved at the earliest. There is a WCL dumping yard on the side of Mouza Matholi (Old) village. Rainwater flowing from the dump enters agricultural lands, causing the fertile topsoil to be washed away and rendering the land unproductive. Consequently, agricultural yields have become very low compared to the expenditure incurred on cultivation. The coal extraction and transportation	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, stated that your concern/point has been duly noted and recorded.

activities carried out by WCL are causing significant pollution. This is having an adverse impact on the health of the local population. Mouza Matholi (Old) village is surrounded by WCL operations on all sides, and due to coal mining activities, the standard of living of the villagers has deteriorated. Furthermore, people have been left with very limited means of livelihood. Roads used for transportation and communication have been damaged due to WCL's activities. Earlier, taxes were being paid on WCL properties located within the jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat of the affected village; however, such payments have been discontinued for the past several years. WCL has stated that this amount is now being deposited into Government accounts. We therefore demand that instead of being deposited with the Government, these funds should be utilized for development works in the affected villages. We would like to know whether this demand will be fulfilled. A large growth of Australian vegetation has developed on WCL's dumping sites, leading to an increase in the movement of wild animals. Since prey is readily available in these forested areas, wild animals such as tigers have started inhabiting them. As a result, the lives of villagers are at risk. People who travel outside the village for employment face danger to their lives due to the presence of tigers. Although WCL is expected to undertake development works in coal-affected villages through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, such works are not being carried out. Therefore, it is requested that appropriate directions be issued from your level to ensure that development works are undertaken in the village through CSR funds. There are many skilled young men and women in the village who are unemployed and



	searching for work. WCL should provide employment opportunities or livelihood support according to their skills so that a sustainable source of income can be created for the unemployed. We respectfully request that the issues of coal-affected Matholi (Old) village be considered sympathetically and resolved at the earliest.	
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13) Shri. Anil Telang, Chief Coordinator, Ambedkari Jan Andolan, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	In the project report submitted for the environmental public hearing, it is proposed to acquire an additional 127.13 hectares of land for enhancing the production capacity of the Old Kolgaon Coal Mine. However, the report does not specify whether the coal to be extracted from the acquired land is Anthracite, Bituminous, Sub-bituminous, or Lignite. Since each of these coal types contains different constituents in its dust particles, their impacts on human beings and wildlife vary. Therefore, the possibility cannot be ruled out that the assessment of impacts on humans and wildlife in the project report is deficient. This may also be considered an initial indication that the project report is incomplete or unreliable. The report states that 26 dust samples were studied over a period of 12 weeks. In the analysis of respirable and non-respirable particulate matter, particle sizes have been classified as respirable ($\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$) and non-respirable ($\geq 10 \mu\text{m}$). However, even though the particles measured may not be visible to the naked eye, anyone standing in the Kolgaon mining area for an hour can physically experience dust	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, stated that your concern/point has been duly noted and recorded.

accumulation in the respiratory organs, particularly in the nose. Therefore, there appears to be a significant discrepancy between the particle size and mass mentioned in the report and the actual experience of dust exposure. This suggests that the practical experience of affected residents differs substantially from the findings of the report. Consequently, the classification of dust particles as above or below 10 μm appears misleading and does not reflect the reality faced by project-affected people. The dust samples analyzed in the report indicate the presence of Pb (Lead), Cr (Chromium), As (Arsenic), Ni (Nickel), Cd (Cadmium), Hg (Mercury), and Ozone. However, the report does not mention emissions of Carbon Monoxide (CO), which can be released during coal combustion and coal fires that may occur due to global warming and mining activities. Carbon monoxide is a highly toxic gas, and the absence of any detailed study or reference to it means that potential adverse impacts on human beings and wildlife have not been adequately assessed. This indicates that the project report is incomplete and fails to fully address risks to human and animal life. Furthermore, although the report identifies the presence of Lead, Chromium, Arsenic, Nickel, Cadmium, Mercury, and Ozone, it does not provide a detailed discussion of their effects on human health. For example: Lead exposure can cause infertility, brain damage, kidney disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and reduced life expectancy. Chromium exposure can damage the lungs, liver, and kidneys in both humans and wildlife. Arsenic contamination can increase the risk of skin cancer, lung cancer, and bladder cancer. The project report merely states that these substances may have "adverse effects" without explaining the diseases and health



conditions associated with exposure. This omission creates the impression that the project-affected population has not been adequately informed while preparing the report. Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), a highly toxic gas emitted during coal combustion, can adversely affect the eyes, lungs, and heart. It can also contribute to painful skin diseases, rashes, and blisters. Similarly, Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) can cause respiratory problems, reduce lung function, lead to asthma, and contribute to heart-related ailments in both humans and wildlife. In Parts I and II of the project report, there is no mention of the health impacts and diseases raised in Objection Nos. 2 to 6. Therefore, the report appears incomplete and questionable.

Impact on Agriculture:-

Apart from the acquired agricultural land, the remaining agricultural fields are also affected by environmental conditions in the surrounding area. The movement of dust particles depends on atmospheric density, humidity, and wind speed. When humidity and air density decrease, dust particles travel more rapidly through the air and settle on cultivable land. This reduces soil quality, making the soil harder and less fertile. Consequently, agricultural productivity declines while cultivation costs and labour requirements increase. Since these impacts arise from both visible and invisible dust particles, the report does not appear to contain a comprehensive assessment of impacts on the remaining agricultural lands, nor does it propose adequate mitigation measures.

Impact on Fishing Communities:-

The Wardha-Penganga river basin supports communities that depend on fishing for their livelihood. Some

pollutants identified in the project report are water-soluble. Dust particles transported by wind can dissolve in river water, adversely affecting aquatic ecosystems and contributing to the disappearance of fish species. In the future, this may lead to the depletion of naturally occurring fish populations, the collapse of local fish markets, and unemployment among communities dependent on fishing.

Impact on Landless Labourers:-

The project report considers villages located within a radius of 100 metres to 10 kilometres. While it discusses the interests of landowners whose lands are acquired, it does not address the concerns of landless labourers or provide employment measures for them. The population within the 100-metre to 10-kilometre radius is approximately 11,000, of which about 60–65% are landless. Among them, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and traditional occupational communities constitute the largest proportion. The temporary employment opportunities generated by the project should ideally benefit the children of landless labourers rather than only the heirs of landowners whose land is acquired. However, the report contains no assessment of potential employment generation for such communities. Assuming one agricultural labourer is dependent on each hectare of land, the acquisition of approximately 520 hectares could result in around 500 landless labourers becoming unemployed in the project-affected villages. Therefore, the Kolgaon Coal Mine Expansion Project Report appears to favour landowners and their employment prospects while neglecting the interests of landless labourers.

Flood Risk Assessment:-

The project report refers to the major floods of 1994 in the Wardha and Penganga rivers. It indicates that floodwaters crossed the High Flood Level (HFL) on the Ghugus side but did not cross the HFL of the Penganga River. However, the report does not provide measurements or data relating to the elevation of the Penganga River's HFL. Therefore, such conclusions appear speculative and unreliable.

Conclusion and Demand:-

Considering Objection Nos. 1 to 9, it is evident that the project may have adverse impacts on human life, wildlife, agriculture, fishing communities, and landless labourers. The report appears to prioritize the interests of capital-intensive development while potentially impoverishing farmers and agricultural labourers.

Therefore, it is requested that the authorities undertake a comprehensive review of the prevailing circumstances, prepare a fresh and scientifically comprehensive project report, and conduct a new public hearing.

Based on the analysis of all these issues, it is submitted that the project may result in the violation of the constitutional rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 21A of the Constitution by adversely affecting the life, livelihood, health, and welfare of affected communities. Accordingly, a fresh project report should be prepared and a new public hearing should be conducted after addressing all deficiencies and concerns raised by the public.



14) Shri. Nikhil Shantaram Upase, Member, Gram Panchayat Sakhara (Ko.), Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The Mungoli Mine has been operating in this area for the last 36 years. We have been living with and inhaling the dust generated from the coal handling plant of the Mungoli Mine. About 10 years ago, when the Penganga Mine commenced operations, we believed that the construction of a bridge would improve transportation and communication facilities. As a result, the dust from Mungoli reduced to some extent; however, the transportation of coal from the Penganga Mine started passing through our village. More coal mines are proposed to be established in this region, and my village, Sakhara, is already trapped in severe pollution. Adults may be able to tolerate illnesses, but if young children become sick due to pollution, who will take responsibility? This should be clarified. WCL conducts medical camps, but they are limited to providing medicines for high blood pressure, diabetes, and minor ailments. No treatment is provided for serious diseases. For the past four days, police vehicles have been patrolling the area. I request the Hon'ble Chairman to travel from Kolgaon to Yavatmal via Shindola after the public hearing so that he can personally witness the condition of the roads. The condition of roads in Kolgaon is extremely poor, making it difficult even to transport pregnant women to hospitals. Earlier, a bridge was constructed at Ghugus, and transportation up to Shindola became smooth. However, the road from the Kolgaon Check Post to the cement	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, stated that your concern/point has been duly noted and recorded.



road is in a highly deteriorated condition. While travelling from Shindola, I noticed that a dust arrestor was operating alongside the road. Out of curiosity, I asked the operator since when it had been functioning. He informed me that it had been started specifically because of the public hearing and that photographs were being taken for presentation purposes. Who will take responsibility for the health of local residents? Coal transportation continues day and night, whereas water sprinkling is carried out for only about two hours. What must be the impact of dust emissions from such transportation on the health of local people? Repeated requests have to be made to WCL officials over the phone for water tankers, yet regular water sprinkling is not carried out. Since a public hearing was scheduled today, water sprinkling was undertaken in the morning. Many public hearings have been conducted in the past, yet local issues remain unresolved. If coal transportation can continue 24 hours a day, why cannot water sprinkling also be carried out round the clock? Why are pollution control measures implemented by WCL only after persistent follow-up by local residents? How long will local people have to continue pursuing authorities for basic pollution-control measures? Further, WCL has not provided insurance coverage to local residents. In two months, the Ghugus bridge will reopen for transportation, after which the entire coal transportation traffic will pass through my village. The entire area is already affected by dust pollution. Measures are taken only after protests are organized. Why is mine water not being utilized for dust suppression? Tenders for water sprinkling are floated even during the monsoon season. Nearly 1,000 vehicles transport coal daily along this road,

while only eight water tankers are deployed for sprinkling, which is grossly inadequate. WCL should implement a permanent solution to reduce pollution instead of relying on temporary measures. Since a public hearing is being held today, the entire area has been cleaned and signboards have been installed. However, throughout the rest of the year, no attention is paid to the area. WCL should either rehabilitate our village to a pollution-free location or divert coal transportation away from Sakhara village by constructing an alternative road through WCL's dumping area. Three fatal accidents have occurred due to the company engaged in overburden dumping, resulting in three deaths. One of the deceased was my relative, Shri Santosh Gawande of Bhadrawati, District Chandrapur. What measures were taken by WCL in this regard, and what compensation was provided? Poor families cannot fight against WCL; does that mean they should simply be abandoned? Ten years ago, WCL installed an RO water purifier in our village through CSR funds. After ten years, drains were constructed. However, whenever we approach WCL officials, they are often unavailable in their offices. Over the last decade, no significant development work has been undertaken by WCL in Sakhara village. WCL should construct a community hall measuring 120 ft x 60 ft in Sakhara village. Electricity supply in this area is inadequate. A 10 kW solar energy project should be established in Sakhara village to ensure the availability of drinking water. The Kailas Nagar-Sakhara road is an important transportation route. Streetlights should be installed along this road so that students and residents of Sakhara, Matholi, and nearby villages can travel safely at



night. The combined population of Sakhara, Matholi, and Kailash Nagar villages is approximately 2,500–3,000 people. However, there is no cremation ground available for performing last rites. Since the surrounding area has been reserved for WCL operations, the Government has no land available for constructing a cremation ground. Therefore, WCL should develop and beautify a concrete cremation ground on its reserved land for the benefit of these three villages. The cremation ground should be located within 0.5 to 1 kilometre of the villages. Coal from the Penganga Mine is transported through a bridge near Wani. A large number of vehicles are parked near Sakhara village at that location, and conditions become especially difficult during the monsoon season. WCL should develop a dedicated parking area on its reserved land so that smaller vehicles can move freely and safely. Even in the event of accidents, adequate compensation is not provided by WCL. Usually, only ₹2–4 lakh is paid as compensation. A separate road should be constructed for coal transportation from the Penganga Bridge to the Kolgaon Check Post. WCL constructed a road from the bridge to Sakhara village, but it is not usable. WCL repeatedly assures that roads will be completed within four months, but such commitments are not fulfilled. For the last ten years, project-affected residents have been demanding a permanent paved road. Only murum (gravel) is spread on the road, while neither asphalt paving nor concrete surfacing is carried out. The condition of the road is extremely poor. I earnestly request the Hon'ble Chairman to travel via the Sakhara–Shivani route after the public hearing so that he can personally witness the extent of road deterioration and



	understand the hardships faced by local residents.	
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15) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Even though WCL may be harmful to local residents, it has become a source of reservations and benefits for outsiders. I request the Hon'ble Chairman to visit our area, and we can provide him with a direct sighting of a tiger. On 06/04/2026, while returning to my village, a tiger crossed in front of my vehicle. At first, my wife thought it was a wild boar, but when I increased the vehicle's headlights, we clearly saw that it was a tiger. During the last ten years, there has hardly been a period without incidents involving tigers causing harm to local residents. Due to the expansion of tiger habitats, even domestic livestock in our area are on the verge of disappearing. Pollution is certainly a serious issue in this region, but there are several other critical concerns that also require attention. The situation prevailing in our area today should prompt everyone to consider what would have happened if such conditions had existed in Western Maharashtra. If we were merely given an opportunity, we would be capable of managing and improving this area ourselves. A few months ago, a couple from our region was crushed to death under a truck. Traffic remained disrupted until 2:00 a.m., yet no decision regarding compensation was taken. Experienced individuals such as Shri Anil Telang, Shri Vijay Pidurkar, and Shri Vijay Gargate have already highlighted these issues. Despite having a government in place, they have been unable to secure solutions.	The Project Proponent stated that there is no specific rule prescribing a minimum distance between two mines. Similarly, wherever limestone deposits are available and a mining block has been allocated by the Government, mining operations can be commenced after obtaining all the required statutory approvals from the concerned departments. It was further stated that WCL had undertaken plantation activities along the roadside in Takli village. However, due to the extensive growth of Prosopis species in the area, most of the saplings planted by WCL could not survive. Afforestation work had been carried out through the Madhya Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation Limited. Since payment for the work has not yet been released, the Corporation has assured that all Prosopis vegetation in the affected areas will be completely eradicated and fresh plantation will be undertaken in place of the trees that did not survive. The Corporation has committed to carrying out the plantation work during the forthcoming monsoon season. The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) has been installed at the Kolgaon Check Post of the Mungoli Mine. Similar monitoring stations have also been installed in the Mungoli, Penganga, Niljai Sub-Area Office, and Belora-Naigaon Sub-Area regions. Such installations are mandated as a condition of Environmental Clearance. Accordingly, proposals for determining



Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Chairman to permit us to compel the administration to function properly. Two days ago, I woke up during the night and found my entire room covered with dust. Shri Telang has already provided a detailed study regarding this dust problem. When I stepped outside, I observed dust spread throughout the atmosphere. The streetlights were barely visible because of the dense dust pollution. The extent of dust pollution was alarming. Since the Hon'ble Environment Minister was scheduled to visit the area, most industries temporarily stopped their production activities, and therefore the dust was not visible on that particular day. I would like to know the minimum permissible distance between an existing mine and a new mine. Similarly, can the project proponent explain the permissible distance requirements for mining of minerals other than coal? As per my understanding, another mine cannot be started within approximately 500 metres. However, Chikhli and Takli villages are surrounded on all sides by a cement plant, coal mines, and limestone mining projects, resulting in severe pollution. If the Hon'ble Chairman has any doubts, he should inspect the area along with us. If such questionable approvals are being granted by the Government, where should ordinary citizens lodge their complaints? Dalmia Company has commenced mining operations on the opposite side of the river at a distance of only about 0.5 km. On another side there is a coal mine, on the third side ACC, and on the fourth side Virur. If the authorities merely record local opinions and submit them without addressing concerns, then this public hearing is unacceptable to us. During its presentation, WCL highlighted the works it has undertaken and	suitable locations are submitted to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). In recent Environmental Clearances, conditions have also been imposed requiring the installation of monitoring stations within villages. Therefore, proposals have been made to install such systems in village areas as well. One monitoring station has already been installed at the Kolgaon Check Post of the Mungoli Mine, and another station will be installed in the direction of the village as per the directives of the Central Ministry. The Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, stated that while granting Environmental Clearance to mining projects, the Central Ministry imposes a mandatory condition requiring the installation of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations. These monitoring stations are connected to the server of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). For expansion projects, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, identifies locations where such monitoring systems are required and imposes conditions accordingly. WCL is then obligated to install the monitoring systems at those designated locations. Your views and suggestions have been duly recorded, and the proceedings of the public hearing will be submitted to the Ministry. The Project Proponent further stated that the proceedings and recordings of today's public hearing will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry seeks an Action Taken Report from WCL regarding the issues raised during the public hearing. Environmental Clearance is granted only after the
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effectively safeguarded its position. However, we expected answers to our questions. If senior authorities alone determine how we should live, then in my opinion this public hearing serves no meaningful purpose. Basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter should not be compromised. Educational and healthcare facilities should also be recognized as fundamental necessities. An inquiry should be conducted into how many years the Primary Health Centre at Kolgaon has been functioning without a doctor. Similarly, the veterinary hospital also lacks doctors. If the administration has failed to appoint doctors for the last 15 years, how can we place our trust in it? Coal mining has placed our lives at risk. Who will protect us? Our lands are capable of producing crops, coal, petroleum, and diesel. Yet, by selling our lands, we have effectively opened the door to our own destruction. Farmers sold their lands to WCL because agricultural produce was not fetching remunerative prices. After the life of the mine ends, WCL should return the land to farmers in accordance with applicable rules. However, no such action has been taken. Numerous skilled and unskilled workers from our village have become unemployed. Whenever employment is sought from WCL, jobs are not provided. Instead, employment is often secured by the supporters of political representatives through recommendations, while local residents remain unemployed. As a result, unemployed local youth fall into addiction and their lives are ruined. No one can serve nature better than those who live close to it. Everyone must remain conscious of environmental responsibilities. The revenue generated from industries such as coal mining should contribute towards improving educational

Environmental Committee is satisfied with the actions proposed and undertaken by WCL. WCL is also required to submit details regarding the financial provisions and timelines necessary for implementing the proposed measures. Appropriate conditions relating to these commitments are incorporated into the Environmental Clearance, and compliance with such conditions is mandatory. Regarding compensation for losses caused by floods, a proposal will be submitted to the higher authorities, and necessary action will be taken upon receipt of directions from the competent authority.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that it is mandatory for WCL to submit replies to all issues and questions raised during the public hearing before the Environmental Committee. The proceedings of the public hearing are forwarded to the Ministry, and WCL is required to provide detailed responses before the Environmental Committee. Environmental Clearance is granted subject to specific terms and conditions. If an industry fails to comply with any of these conditions, the Environmental Clearance may even be revoked. The terms and conditions prescribed by the Ministry of Environment cannot be violated, and the mitigation measures recommended by the Committee are mandatory. WCL is required to rectify all deficiencies and shortcomings identified during the process. Environmental Clearance cannot be granted unless such deficiencies are adequately addressed. All the issues raised during the public hearing have been duly recorded and will be



standards in the region. However, this is not happening. It appears that only 10% of the population has benefited and improved its standard of living, while the remaining 90% continue to suffer. Why the Government does not address this issue remains a serious question. The Government of Maharashtra has constructed roads under the Chief Minister Gram Sadak Yojana. The data presented by WCL is misleading. WCL should disclose how much money was spent on afforestation in my village, Takli, and how many trees have actually survived. Information should also be provided regarding the eradication of Prosopis trees from our agricultural fields. Prosopis makes agricultural land infertile and also contributes to the expansion of tiger habitats. A WCL official once informed me that Prosopis plantations were undertaken by WCL to prevent soil erosion. Although I do not possess documentary evidence to prove this claim, I do possess video evidence regarding pollution in the area. The administration and Government must seriously address pollution issues. People may be tolerating these hardships today, but future generations will not tolerate them and will instead resist them. Large quantities of coal have been extracted from our lands; therefore, after completion of mining operations, the land should be levelled and returned to us. Effective implementation of laws is extremely important. WCL is investing in carbon credits, and farmers should also benefit from such carbon credit mechanisms. Information should be provided regarding the locations where WCL has installed pollution-monitoring equipment. If local residents wish to independently measure pollution levels, what facilities are available to them? Are the Continuous Ambient Air	submitted before the Government for consideration.
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Quality Monitoring Systems reliable? Blasting operations make it difficult for farmers to breathe while working in their fields. Will there be another public hearing after this one, and will all public questions be answered at that time? Local residents do not clearly understand what benefits they have received or will receive from these projects. Furthermore, the benefits of pollution-control measures are not visible to the local population. We sold our lands because coal could be extracted from them. Electricity is generated from coal, and the transmission surcharge for that electricity is collected from us. Therefore, project-affected persons should receive at least 200 units of free electricity. The mines in this region are situated within the Wardha and Penganga river basins. Due to the dumping of overburden in these basins, river water enters nearby villages. During the devastating floods of 2006, our villages suffered severe damage. Even more serious situations may arise in the future. Therefore, information should be provided regarding the preventive measures planned by the administration. I participated in protests in 2006. At that time, surveys were conducted and assurances were given that compensation would be paid. However, not a single farmer has received compensation to date. Due to the awareness of local residents and the efforts of Coal India, farmers in this region received compensation for crop damage caused by dust pollution for the first time. The question remains: how long are we expected to survive on promises? WCL has no adequate provisions to compensate for the losses suffered by villages. Action is taken only after public outcry, and even then no permanent solutions are implemented. Citizens whose land is



	acquired and who receive employment are provided with various benefits and facilities. However, the remaining residents receive nothing. Over the past 14 years, land values under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 have not been revised adequately. Since satisfactory answers to our concerns are not being provided, this public hearing appears meaningless. If local residents remain dissatisfied with the proceedings, will this public hearing be cancelled and conducted again? At the very beginning of this public hearing, local residents expressed their opposition to the project and stated that the project report was misleading.	
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16) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Many project-affected persons have presented their grievances and brought various issues to the attention of the administration. However, at the beginning of this public hearing, it was stated that the hearing is legally valid. In our opinion, this public hearing is completely invalid and unlawful because the works claimed in WCL's presentation have not actually been carried out on the ground. The Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee has the authority to ensure justice for the project-affected people. Therefore, the presentation and the project report should be corrected, and the public hearing should be conducted again after one or two months at an appropriate venue. Furthermore, appointment letters for employment promised to project-	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Chandrapur, stated that your concern/point has been duly noted and recorded.

	affected persons should be distributed during the public hearing itself. Previously, the public hearing for the Kolgaon Mine was cancelled due to deficiencies and shortcomings. It was only after those deficiencies were rectified and appointment letters were issued that the public hearing received approval. The presentation made during the current public hearing is incorrect. This has been pointed out by all those present. WCL should make all necessary corrections to the presentation and should bring appointment letters for at least 25% of the proposed workforce. Only then will we be prepared to give our approval to this public hearing.	
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17) Shri. Shrikrishna Gajanan Panghate, Kolgaon, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	If WCL does not issue a tender for the repair of the road, then WCL's transportation activities will be stopped within the next 15 days. Clarification should be provided as to whether the responsibility for the construction and maintenance of the road lies with the Public Works Department (PWD) or with WCL. This is important because the road serves as a vital route for travel from Mukutban to Chandrapur. A period of one month is being granted for the construction and repair of the said road. If the road work is not completed within this stipulated period, all transportation activities of WCL will be completely stopped. Further, the road from the Check Post to Punja gets washed away during floods, resulting in the village being cut off from transportation and communication links. Therefore, that road should also be repaired and strengthened.	The Project Proponent stated that the tendering process for the road from the Kolgaon Check Post to the bridge has been completed, and the road construction work will be undertaken before the onset of the monsoon season. It was further stated that the construction of the said 1.1 km road will be completed at the earliest



18) Shri. Arvind Janardan Umare, Mungoli, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Sir, you are the Chairman of the Rehabilitation Department. The Rehabilitation Department is well aware of the facilities that are supposed to be provided by a company after the rehabilitation of a village. The rehabilitation of Mungoli village was carried out near Chorli village. However, to date, drinking water facilities have not been provided there. WCL drilled its own borewell to a depth of approximately 300-400 feet, but the facility has not been made available to the residents. Similarly, the roads constructed there are of poor quality. Drainage works were undertaken, but due to substandard construction, the drains have already been damaged. Streetlights have also not been installed. Solar-powered streetlights were installed, but they are not functioning properly. On behalf of the Mungoli Gram Panchayat, I request that WCL install a borewell and establish an RO plant in the village so that local residents can obtain clean drinking water. In rehabilitated villages, facilities such as safe drinking water, roads, drainage systems, anganwadi centres, and primary schools should be provided immediately. WCL is neglecting the villages that have already been rehabilitated. Rehabilitation should not be undertaken until all essential facilities are provided. If half of the compensation received for rehabilitation has to be spent on drilling a borewell, then how can people construct houses? The amount received under the housing scheme is very limited and insufficient for	The Project Proponent stated that the electricity supply work has been completed and the drainage work has also been carried out. Four borewells are proposed to be constructed for providing drinking water facilities. The construction of the drinking water storage tank is still pending. However, the pipeline network for the drinking water supply has already been completed, and the work of constructing the water tank will be started and completed at the earliest. In the meantime, drinking water will be supplied through water tankers. It was also stated that an RO (Reverse Osmosis) water purification plant will be installed through CSR funds.



	building a house. The payments of contractors awarded rehabilitation-related works by WCL should be withheld until all promised facilities are provided. At the time of Mungoli village's rehabilitation, it was assured that concrete roads, drainage systems, drinking water facilities, electricity supply, playgrounds, schools, and temples would be constructed. However, none of these facilities have been provided to date. My request is that drinking water facilities should be made available by the month of May. If WCL provides a borewell facility through the Gram Panchayat, it would be highly beneficial. Although pipeline connections have been provided in the village, an overhead water storage tank has not been constructed. In 2018, when Virur-Gadegaon village was rehabilitated, drinking water facilities were provided first. Why was the same not done for Mungoli village? Is it possible for WCL to supply drinking water cans to every household until a permanent arrangement is made? If drinking water facilities are provided through CSR funds, the work can be completed more quickly. The labourers in the village must either go for their daily wages or remain at home waiting for water. This situation is causing severe hardship to the residents.	
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19) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	WCL should immediately provide drinking water facilities and ensure that drinking water arrangements are made as the first priority while	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that the



rehabilitating any village. WCL should also ensure a regular and uninterrupted supply of drinking water to the villagers. Action should be taken against WCL officials for carrying out rehabilitation in an improper and inadequate manner. During this public hearing conducted by WCL, the Sarpanches and other representatives of project-affected villages have attempted to highlight the issues faced by their respective villages. In order to resolve the problems of villagers and ensure that development works are carried out through WCL's CSR funds, a committee comprising the Sub-Divisional Officer, Block Development Officer, Sarpanch, and other local representatives should be constituted. Such a committee may review the development works undertaken by WCL every 3, 6, or 12 months. This option should be considered, as it would make it easier for the Government to monitor progress and address local grievances. This public hearing should be cancelled because, in our opinion, nearly 90% of the information presented contains deficiencies and inaccuracies. Further, for those farmers whose cases are free from deficiencies, appointment letters for employment in the local project should be issued, and only thereafter should a fresh public hearing be conducted. After rectifying all deficiencies, a new public hearing should be held within the next one to two months. Why should approval be granted to an inaccurate and misleading presentation? I allege that this public hearing is being conducted in an unlawful manner. WCL does not appear to have accurate information regarding the distances between villages, the actual levels of pollution, or the extent to which groundwater levels have declined. Therefore, the deficiencies should first be addressed	present public hearing pertains to the proposed enhancement of production capacity from 0.60 million tonnes per annum to 0.80 million tonnes per annum and the proposed expansion of the mining lease area by 123 hectares. He further stated that several additional issues have also been raised during the hearing. However, the issues relating to Mungoli village are not directly connected with the subject matter of the present public hearing. Nevertheless, local residents should remain assured that appropriate decisions will be taken regarding the grievances and problems of Mungoli village. The Chairman clarified that WCL is mandatorily required to submit responses to all questions and issues raised during the public hearing before the Environmental Appraisal Committee. Environmental Clearance will be granted only after the Committee is satisfied with WCL's responses and proposed actions, and such clearance will be subject to specific terms and conditions. He further stated that if WCL is found to have violated any of the conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance, the environmental permission/clearance may also be revoked. Finally, he informed the gathering that all issues, suggestions, objections, and concerns raised during the public hearing have been duly recorded and will be forwarded to the concerned authorities for consideration.
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	comprehensively before proceeding further with the project approval process.	
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20) Shri. Anil Telang, Chief Coordinator, Ambedkari Jan Andolan, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Sir, in your capacity as the Chairman of this Public Hearing, you will be drawing the conclusion and finalizing the proceedings of this public hearing.	The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that he does not have the authority to draw conclusions or make the final decision regarding the public hearing. The conclusions and decisions in this regard will be made by the Environmental Appraisal Committee. He further stated that all the issues and concerns raised by the participants are being duly recorded, and it is mandatory for WCL to provide satisfactory responses to all the questions before the Environmental Committee. If the Committee finds that the responses provided by WCL are not satisfactory, it will take an appropriate decision in the matter.

21) Shri. Vijay Pidurkar, Former Member, Zilha Parishad Yavatmal, Tal. Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	WCL is a Government of India undertaking and has deposited a certain amount with CMPDI for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. However, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared on this basis is defective and contains several inaccuracies. Due to this flawed	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that merely preparing a report does not mean that it has been approved. If any deficiencies or errors are found in the report, necessary corrections are



report, the efforts and resources of all stakeholders are being wasted. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not being properly scrutinized. We have repeatedly demonstrated, with specific references and page numbers from the report, that the report contains false and incorrect information, but these issues continue to be ignored. As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2009, if the public hearing is being conducted in a legally valid manner, then a thorough review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is essential. The persons who prepared the report should be present at this hearing so that doubts regarding issues such as the method used for measuring aerial distances and other technical aspects can be clarified. The said Environmental Impact Assessment Report is submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. WCL should inform the persons responsible for preparing the report about the errors identified therein so that such mistakes are not repeated in the future.	made, and the revised information is incorporated into the final report.
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22) Shri. Anil Telang, Chief Coordinator, Ambedkari Jan Andolan, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	During 2010–12, a public hearing was conducted for the project of Ispat India Ltd. At that time also, there were deficiencies and inaccuracies in the report. Consequently, we strongly opposed the public hearing, and the then Chairman publicly announced that the public hearing had been cancelled. Therefore, the Chairman	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that your point/issue has been duly recorded and taken on record.



	does have the authority to cancel a public hearing.	
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23) Shri. Vijay Pidurkar, Former Member, Zilha Parishad Yavatmal, Tal. Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The persons who prepared the report should be informed about the errors and deficiencies identified in it. After the public hearing is conducted, information regarding the compliance of the issues and objections raised during the hearing does not reach the general public. Only a three-page Terms of Reference (ToR) letter is issued. Since this Committee has the authority to take decisions on objections that can be resolved at the local level, a Chairman has been appointed to the Committee for that purpose. Our only contention is that the government-owned company should acknowledge the mistakes and shortcomings in its report.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that the errors pointed out by you are being duly recorded, and photographic documentation is also being carried out. The proceedings (minutes) of this public hearing will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The scope of the public hearing process is to record the opinions, suggestions, and objections of local people and submit them to the Government. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that after the proceedings are submitted before the Environmental Committee, the Committee will take an appropriate decision on the matter. The Public Hearing Committee does not have any role or representation in that Committee.

24) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Since WCL has a community hall available for conducting the public hearing and it is near proximity to the proposed project site and as the mine falls within the Wani Area of WCL, the public hearing was conducted at the Recreation Center, Kailashnagar.



25) Shri. Rajendra Dhawas, Kolgaon, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	During the monsoon season, water enters Survey Nos. 160 to 170, and a large amount of dust is generated in the area. To date, my agricultural land has not been acquired, nor have I been paid any compensation for it.	The Project Proponent stated that your land was not acquired because it lies beyond the limits of the proposed mine area. Water accumulated in your land will be drained out using machinery. Further expansion of the mine is proposed, and during that phase, your land will be acquired.

26) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	For the Kolgaon Project, it was initially proposed at the time of the Section 4 notification to acquire 145.74 hectares of land. Subsequently, CMPDI and the Headquarters revised the proposal, and the process of partial land acquisition was discontinued. As per the revised directions, instead of 145.74 hectares, only 133.97 hectares of land was to be acquired. All project reports of WCL in this area are prepared in accordance with the approvals and directions of CMPDI and the WCL Headquarters at Nagpur. At the stage of the Section 4 notification, exploration and investigation of coal reserves in the area are carried out. No final decision regarding land acquisition is taken at that stage.

27) Mrs. Kalpana Ramesh Tonge, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	WCL published different survey numbers in the Gazette Notification and during the Section 4 proceedings, and had indicated an area of 30 hectares. As a result, the farmers have been put into difficulty. The officials of WCL themselves admitted that the working procedure adopted by WCL was flawed. WCL should decide how the issues faced by our farmers can be resolved and should take	The Project Proponent stated that survey numbers cannot be officially declared until the issuance of the Section 7 notification. Under Section 4, only the exploration and investigation of coal reserves are carried out. Even when information regarding the Section 4 notification was disseminated in the village, the survey numbers had not been declared. After the issuance of the



appropriate measures for their redressal. The problems should be resolved at the earliest possible time.	Section 4 notification, amendments were made and a revised notification was issued. In the revised notification, the project boundaries were specified and declared.
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28) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The second issue raised was regarding the non-execution of agreements for Bhogawata-2 lands. In this regard, land agreements have been processed for 147 landholders. Out of the 147 persons holding Bhogawata-2 lands, agreements have been executed with 127 persons. Out of these, compensation amounting to a total of ₹25.26 crore has been awarded to 116 persons. Of this amount, nearly ₹20 crore has already been disbursed. For the remaining cases, 10% of the compensation amount is required to be deposited with the Government as per the applicable procedure. The compensation will be distributed to all remaining beneficiaries by the end of this month. Employment will be provided in accordance with WCL's policy. Under this policy, women will be provided employment in local projects, while men will be employed either in the local project or in other projects depending on the requirements. Coal transportation will be carried out through railways, which will help reduce pollution.

29) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	You are seeking approval for the expansion of the project from 0.60 million tonnes per annum to 0.80 million tonnes per annum. Land has been acquired for this purpose. WCL should provide information regarding the specific project in which direct employment will be provided. Since the proposal pertains to an open-cast mine, why are local people being offered employment in underground mines? Keeping the policy aside, local affected persons should be provided employment in this very project. Does WCL have any provision for providing employment to persons with	The Project Proponent stated that, in accordance with WCL's policy, local affected persons will be provided employment in underground mines. A proposal for providing employment to project-affected persons in the local project itself will be submitted to the Headquarters for consideration.

	disabilities without requiring land acquisition?	
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30) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Why does WCL have to approach its Headquarters for every decision? Why do senior-level WCL officials not remain present during the public hearing? If senior officials were present, it would be easier to resolve local issues and grievances at the local level itself.	The Convener of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/point has been duly recorded and taken on record.

31) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The officers who are authorized to take decisions are expected to remain present during the public hearing. If the families of local residents are living at Yenkan, why are they being offered employment at places such as Umred and Nagpur? If land is being acquired for an open-cast mine, then the affected local people should be provided employment in the same open-cast mining project and should not be assigned jobs in underground mines. In one project, the public hearing was cancelled twice, and it was only approved the third time after appointments were provided in the local project. I request the Sub-Area Officer not to provide misleading or incorrect information. Since land has been acquired in the Wani Area, employment should be provided within the Wani Area itself, such as in the Mungoli, Naigaon, Niljai, and	The Project Proponent stated that employment is provided in those projects where there is a requirement for manpower. A list of eligible candidates for employment has been prepared and submitted to the Sub-Divisional Officer.

	Painganga coal mines. Employment should not be provided in areas outside the Wani Area. Furthermore, employment should be offered in accordance with the educational qualifications of the affected persons. Otherwise, today's public hearing should be cancelled and conducted again at a later date.	
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32) Shri. Anil Telang, Chief Coordinator, Ambedkari Jan Andolan, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	An announcement should be made cancelling today's public hearing. The project report submitted by WCL is fraudulent/bogus, and therefore an official declaration should be made cancelling the public hearing	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL should clearly explain its employment policy. The Project Proponent stated that employment will be provided in those projects where there is a requirement for manpower.

33) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Information should be provided regarding WCL's policy on indirect employment. Persons who do not own agricultural land should be given 80% of the employment opportunities. WCL should incorporate such a provision in its agreement with the contractor. Contractors engaged by WCL often employ persons from outside the district and taluka, while local people are clearly being overlooked. For example, if an overburden dump contractor requires 200 workers, both	The Project Proponent stated that, while awarding contracts, a condition will be incorporated requiring the contractor to provide employment opportunities to skilled and unskilled youth from the project-affected villages. Wherever skilled workers are required, employment will be provided through the contractor. Local skilled workers will be given preference in indirect employment opportunities.



skilled and unskilled labourers will be needed. In cases where skilled workers are not available locally in sufficient numbers, unskilled local workers should be provided training and then absorbed into the workforce. Agricultural labourers should also be taken into consideration while providing employment opportunities.	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL will give preference to local people in indirect employment opportunities. However, since unemployment is a widespread issue, there will naturally be competition for such jobs. A suitable condition to this effect will be incorporated in WCL's tender documents.
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34) Shri. Anil Telang, Chief Coordinator, Ambedkari Jan Andolan, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The issue of skilled and unskilled workers has been raised here; however, a satisfactory response has not been received from WCL. WCL incorporates certain terms and conditions in its tender documents. A condition should be added to the agreement executed with the company awarded the contract, requiring that first preference in employment be given to landless persons and unemployed individuals from families having more than one eligible candidate. However, WCL is not willing to accept this proposal.	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL should clearly explain its employment policy. The Project Proponent stated that employment will be provided in those projects where manpower is required. The condition suggested by you has already been incorporated in the new tender document.

35) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Coal transportation will be diverted through the Ghugghus route within the next 2-3 months. Coal storage will be carried out through the Mungoli Silo facility.



36) Mrs. Kalpana Ramesh Tonge, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Information should be provided regarding the manner in which the tax that was earlier being paid to the Gram Panchayat will be paid in the future. The concern is that the tax revenue is not being utilized specifically for the industrial area but is instead spent across the entire district. If the tax funds were utilized in our project-affected area, it would be possible to meet the small and large needs of the affected villages. Instead of paying the tax to the Government, if it were paid directly to the Gram Panchayats, the funds could be used for village development works. In today's time, the importance of education has increased significantly. For the last three years, WCL has been assuring that school repair works would be undertaken, but no action has been taken to date. On one side of my village there is an ACC mine, and on the other side there are WCL mines. As a result, the groundwater level in my village has declined significantly. During the months of April and May, I contacted you over the phone regarding the supply of drinking water to the village. The response from your side was, "Send a tanker, and we will fill it with water and send it back." When our Gram Panchayat does not even have a tanker available, how could we possibly send one? This was an irresponsible response from WCL. WCL has adopted the village, and the provision of drinking water is a basic infrastructure requirement. How can	The Project Proponent stated that if there is a water scarcity problem, WCL will supply water upon receiving a request. In the event of water shortages during the months of April and May, water will be supplied by WCL. Adequate water is available in the mine. If the Gram Panchayat submits a proposal indicating the locations where water is required, water will be supplied accordingly. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL should ensure a permanent water supply arrangement. The Project Proponent further stated that the Gram Panchayat should prepare and submit a proposal regarding water supply to WCL. As per the proposal, mine water will be treated and supplied for agriculture, drinking purposes, and other requirements. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that the Gram Panchayat should prepare and submit the proposal through the Gram Sevak, and necessary action will be taken on it. Furthermore, if required, water tankers will also be provided through the District Council (Zilla Parishad). WCL should make arrangements for a permanent water supply.



	the village be deprived of such an essential facility? A similar situation had arisen in 2021 as well. At that time, assistance was received from the Wani Municipal Council and ACC Ltd.; however, help from WCL came only at the very end. This clearly reflects the negligence and lack of responsiveness on the part of WCL.	
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37) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	A scientific study regarding blasting operations in the Kolgaon Mine has been conducted by the organization Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR). In accordance with the recommendations of CIMFR, the intensity of vibrations and shocks caused by blasting has been significantly reduced. Periodic inspections and monitoring are carried out in this regard. According to the inspection reports, the blasting vibrations are presently within the prescribed permissible limits. Nevertheless, WCL will conduct further surveys and take additional measures to bring about further improvements, wherever necessary. Water sprinkling is carried out during blasting operations, which helps prevent the dispersion of dust particles into the atmosphere.

38) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Due to blasting operations carried out by WCL, a wall collapsed about 7-8 years ago, resulting in the death of a woman. The vibrations caused by WCL's blasting activities are extremely severe. It is alleged that even a post-mortem examination of the deceased woman was not allowed to be conducted. It is further alleged that WCL undertook actions that amounted to the destruction of evidence. Appropriate measures should be taken to address these concerns and prevent such incidents in the future.	The Coordinator of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur, stated that your concern/issue has been duly recorded and taken on record.

39) Mrs. Kalpana Ramesh Tonge, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Two health camps were conducted in Yenak village during 2021–22, and one health camp was organized in 2025. However, no health camps were conducted during the years 2022, 2023, and 2024. Furthermore, in these health camps, treatment is generally limited to ailments such as high blood pressure and diabetes. No treatment is provided for other illnesses. In addition, when the number of citizens attending the camp increases, it is often announced that the stock of medicines has been exhausted, and the health camp is declared concluded.	Dr. Suvana, Pediatric Specialist, WCL Rajiv Ratan Hospital, Ghugghus, Chandrapur District, stated that health camps are being organized regularly in the villages of Chikhli, Takli, Yenak, Kolgaon, and Mungoli. In Yenak village, two health camps were conducted in 2021 and two health camps were conducted in 2025. Additionally, a health camp is proposed to be organized in 2026.

40) Asha Worker, Gram Panchayat Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Proper medical examinations are not being conducted in the health camps organized by WCL. Medicines relating to the health needs of villagers are generally provided through the village ASHA workers. It is often stated that WCL does not have an adequate stock of medicines available. Although WCL provides information regarding health camps, it is not always feasible for the Gram Panchayat to make the necessary arrangements at short notice. WCL should inform the Gram Panchayat about the health camps at least one week in advance so that adequate preparations can be made. Furthermore, the availability of	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that the health camps organized by WCL should include screening and examination for diseases caused by pollution. This would help in the early diagnosis of such illnesses at the primary level and facilitate the referral of affected persons to larger hospitals for further treatment and specialized medical care.

	villagers is also very important for the successful conduct of health camps. Advance information would enable the Gram Panchayat to inform the residents in time and ensure their participation in the health camps.	
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41) Mrs. Kalpana Ramesh Tonge, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Eye examinations, eye surgeries, and treatment for serious diseases such as cancer should be made available at Rajiv Ratan Hospital. Since my village is located far away, local residents face considerable difficulty in accessing medical services. If WCL could arrange for an ambulance to visit our village even twice a month, it would greatly assist local people in obtaining treatment at Rajiv Ratan Hospital. However, WCL has taken the position that if local residents require treatment, they should themselves travel to Rajiv Ratan Hospital. Such a response is irresponsible. Since the planning and coordination of health camps are carried out through the Sarpanch, it is not appropriate to place this responsibility on ASHA workers. Therefore, the statement made by the doctor from Rajiv Ratan Hospital is incorrect.	Dr. Suvarna, Pediatric Specialist, WCL Rajiv Ratan Hospital, Ghugghus, Chandrapur District, stated that for health-related issues, the Sarpanch is contacted first through telephone communication. However, if coordination with the ASHA worker is required, health camps will henceforth be organized in consultation and coordination with the ASHA worker as well. At Rajiv Ratan Hospital, cataract surgeries are regularly performed under CSR initiatives by specialist Dr. Katkar. Patients are also transported back to their villages through ambulance services. In addition, OPD services are provided under CSR on one day every week at Rajiv Ratan Hospital. These services include free blood tests and X-ray facilities. Citizens are requested to visit Rajiv Ratan Hospital for medical examinations whenever required. Necessary treatment facilities will be made available to them there. Furthermore, if any patient needs to be referred to a larger hospital for specialized treatment, ambulance facilities are also provided. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that, according to the doctors, healthcare services are

		available to local residents round the clock, i.e., 24 hours a day.
2	Streetlights should have already been installed on the roads surrounding the village. WCL should also make arrangements for providing fodder facilities for milch animals at their designated locations within the village. Tree plantation should be carried out along the roadside between Shindola and Kolgaon. However, during the summer season, WCL should conduct a survey to verify whether the trees planted along the road have survived and are being properly maintained. The Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Scheme for project-affected persons should be implemented properly and effectively. There has already been a delay of 15 months in providing employment. Information should be provided regarding who will be responsible for compensating the affected persons for the losses suffered during this 15-month delay. WCL should provide employment opportunities to local people at the earliest possible opportunity. Furthermore, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report should be made available to us for examination and review.	The Project Proponent stated that the approach road near the village will be cleaned and streetlights will also be installed by WCL. Further, the Wildlife Conservation Plan has been submitted to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pandharkawada. The Wildlife Conservation Plan will be implemented in accordance with the directions received from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pandharkawada. Groundwater levels are monitored four times a year through a laboratory accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). In addition, groundwater levels are also monitored by the Central Ground Water Board. According to these assessments, the groundwater table has declined by only about 0.5 metres. As per the Central Ground Water Board, the groundwater level in Wani Taluka is approximately 40 metres, while according to CMPDI, it is around 50 metres. The safe groundwater level for Wani Taluka is up to 70 metres. Nevertheless, as requested by the Hon'ble Sarpanch, water will be supplied if required under the Mine Conservation Scheme. WCL does not plant Prosopis trees; rather, they grow naturally. WCL regularly removes Prosopis trees growing along the roadsides and will continue to carry out such clearing operations in the future. To prevent inconvenience to livestock, the roads surrounding the village will also be cleaned by WCL, and streetlights will be installed. Fodder facilities for domestic animals such as cows, buffaloes, and other livestock will be made available on reclaimed or exhausted mining land belonging to WCL. Tree plantation along the concerned road had earlier been undertaken by the Public Works



		Department; however, the plantation was not successful. Therefore, WCL will undertake tree plantation along the Shindola-Kolgaon road. WCL has acquired approximately 127 hectares of land, and around 147 project-affected persons are proposed to be provided employment. The proposal will be submitted to the District Collector through the Sub-Divisional Officer. After obtaining approval from the District Collector, the proposal will be forwarded to WCL Headquarters. Further action will commence once approval is received from the WCL Board. The process of providing employment is expected to begin by the end of May. In the report prepared in 2016, Group Nos. 45, 46, and 47 were excluded. Subsequently, a report was prepared by CMPDI, in which these group numbers were again excluded because they were located outside the project boundary. Efforts will be made to include these group numbers in future expansion projects.
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42) Shri. Vijay Pidurkar, Former Member, Zilha Parishad Yavatmal, Tal. Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Mungoli village has already been rehabilitated and falls within the affected zone. In 2016, WCL proposed the New Chincholi-Shivani Project. It has been pointed out earlier that if a person suffers from paralysis, his parents, who may be 60-70 years old, are often unable to take proper care of him. Therefore, the Hon'ble Chairman should issue directions as a special case that rehabilitation must be comprehensive and holistic. Even though Section 7 has already been applied, there is still an opportunity to address these concerns. WCL should	The Project Proponent stated that the proposal will be submitted to the Headquarters within one week. Earlier, a similar response had been given. However, it is now being clarified that a condition relating to contractual employment will be incorporated in the NIT (Notice Inviting Tender). This condition will be included in the tender documents governing contractual employment. After four years, when a fresh tender is issued, the same condition will again be incorporated. Since it is not possible to predetermine who will be

prepare a separate proposal for those two affected farmers and submit it to WCL Headquarters after obtaining approval from the District Collector. The employment being provided through NIT-based vehicle contracts should not be limited to five years. WCL should submit a proposal to its Headquarters, with the approval of the District Collector, to extend this period up to 60 years. WCL should also guarantee employment under skill development schemes to those whose livelihoods are adversely affected. If a person is given a contract for only four years, how will that family sustain itself thereafter? WCL has reportedly earmarked ₹2,447 crore under environmental liabilities, but no detailed information regarding the utilization of these funds has been provided. With regard to coal transportation, the provision of tyre-washing facilities is mandatory. During the tenure of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as Labour Minister, various measures were prescribed in writing regarding worker welfare and industrial operations. However, in 2026, WCL is not implementing such measures in accordance with the prescribed norms. Coal transportation and public transportation routes should be separated. No tyre-washing system has been installed on the road from Kolgaon to Mungoli Bridge or on the stretch from Mungoli Bridge to the Mungoli Office. Three fatalities have occurred on the Kolgaon–Mungoli Office road. WCL informed that tree plantation is being undertaken by the Forest Development Board of Madhya Pradesh. However, our demand is that, just as tenders have been awarded to the Maharashtra Forest Department in WCL's Ballarpur Area, similar tenders should be awarded in the Wani Area as well. This would ensure better plantation, proper maintenance, and effective utilization	awarded the contract, details regarding long-term contractual arrangements will be communicated separately. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL should extend the contract period beyond four years and provide contracts up to the age of retirement. The Project Proponent further stated that under Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER), a fund of ₹4 crore is available. This fund may be utilized for activities related to health, sanitation, education, and similar sectors. While CSR funding is entirely dependent on WCL's profitability, the CER fund of ₹4 crore is specifically earmarked for this project. Any priority works that cannot be undertaken through CSR funding may be completed through CER funding. Regarding tyre-washing systems, WCL has two major coal transportation routes: the Painganga–Mungoli–Kolgaon route and the Niljai–Naigaon route. Tyre-washing systems at both locations have already been awarded, and approximately 80% of the work has been completed. Since Mungoli and Kolgaon share a common coal transportation route, the tyre-washing system is being installed at the Mungoli Check Post. The stretch from the Wardha River Bridge to Sakhara village and from Sakhara village to Painganga is an LMV (Light Motor Vehicle) road. Although the present condition of the road is unsatisfactory, the work for its bituminous surfacing has already been awarded and will commence shortly. Similarly, the road from Painganga Bridge to Kolgaon has also been awarded. Under this project, a divider will be constructed and a
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of funds. Regarding the eradication of Prosopis, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board had issued letters to WCL Wani Area and WCL Wani North Area in 2022. WCL Wani North Area implemented the directions, whereas WCL Wani Area did not. Furthermore, the Pollution Control Board also failed to adequately follow up on the matter. The Prosopis tree grows rapidly within four to five months and becomes very large within a year. Grass does not grow beneath it. Therefore, an important question is whether the open land shown by WCL is actually available. Prosopis seeds spread naturally through wind and water and do not require plantation efforts. In 1971, a proposal supported by the World Bank led to the plantation of Prosopis in Kutch, Gujarat. The consequences of that decision are now being experienced even in Maharashtra. The tree often requires removal using JCB machines and is highly resistant to environmental conditions such as heat, water, and drought. At the same time, the population of tigers in the area has increased, and the possibility of future human-wildlife conflict cannot be ruled out. Due to tiger habitat expansion, six villages, including Kolgaon, Chikhli, and Takli, have been affected. Eradication of Prosopis would create open land that could be used for plantation activities by WCL and would also help reduce human-wildlife conflict. Since WCL has earmarked approximately ₹1,447 crore for environmental measures, a portion of this fund should be utilized for Prosopis eradication. WCL proposes to acquire 127 hectares of land and provide 147 jobs. Clarification should be given as to whether these are 147 direct jobs in total or whether employment will be provided at the rate of one job for every two acres of land acquired.	separate LMV road will be developed. The work is expected to be completed before the monsoon season. WCL undertakes various plantation activities. For general plantation work, all State Government forestry agencies are invited to participate. Both FDCM and the Forest Department have been invited. Since WCL is a government company, work is awarded through the tender process to the agency quoting the lowest rate (L-1). Apart from general plantation, Miyawaki plantation work has been entrusted to the Maharashtra Social Forestry Department. Under the applicable Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), plantation must consist of three categories of species: medicinal plants, fruit-bearing trees, and ornamental trees. Fruit-bearing species include native varieties such as Amla (Indian Gooseberry), Tamarind, Jamun, and Bamboo, while ornamental species include trees such as Gulmohar. Approximately 30% of the total plantation comprises fruit-bearing species. Regarding the issue of Prosopis, WCL removes Prosopis growth before undertaking plantation activities every year. During the current year, approximately 50-60 hectares of Prosopis-infested land will be cleared. Large-scale plantation activities are being undertaken after complete removal of Prosopis from the concerned areas. A total of 127 hectares of land is being acquired. Employment will be provided in accordance with the prevailing policies of Coal India Limited. In cases where landholdings are less than two acres, a final decision will be taken after obtaining approval from the WCL Board. The related proposal is being submitted to the District Collector. It is expected that the process of providing employment will commence within approximately two months. Efforts will be made to provide employment
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WCL's position is that the 147 jobs will be provided only after approval by the WCL Board. Compensation payments have been made for the past month. However, clarification is required as to whether approval for employment has already been obtained from the District Collector. If approval is granted by the District Collector within 15 days, approximately how long thereafter will it take for jobs to be provided? Will WCL make a strong representation before its Board to ensure that local people are employed within the Wani Area or Wani North Area? Since the acquired lands are likely to remain unused for up to 25 years, indirect employment opportunities should be developed. For example, women's self-help groups could be supported through the use of substantial funds available under CER (Corporate Environment Responsibility). If fruit-bearing trees were planted in the area using CER funds, this could become a model plantation project for the entire country. Such plantations could generate livelihood opportunities for local residents and help address unemployment. If WCL provides saplings, local people are willing to undertake plantation activities. WCL has proposed plantation over 200 hectares; however, it remains unclear whether plantation will be undertaken on overburden dumps or on open land. Proper planning and implementation of such plantation programmes would directly benefit local communities. These measures are also mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, but they are not being implemented in practice. A recent agricultural exhibition held in Yavatmal highlighted the shortage of tamarind and turmeric available from forest areas. Local women's self-help groups collect and sell such produce.

opportunities to eligible persons from the surrounding areas. A proposal regarding employment for persons from adjacent areas will also be submitted to WCL Headquarters. With regard to dust pollution on coal transportation roads, water sprinkling through tankers and fog cannons has already been implemented. Additionally, under the Kolgaon Expansion Project, two more fog cannons and two additional water sprinklers will be installed. A total expenditure of ₹12 crore has been earmarked for environmental protection measures. Furthermore, WCL is implementing permanent solutions. A silo loading system is being established at Mungoli, through which coal will be loaded directly into railway wagons via pipelines. This system will operate with an automated water-sprinkling mechanism. Once operational, approximately 90% of coal transportation by road will cease. Coal from the Kolgaon Project will be transported directly to the Mungoli Silo through a belt conveyor system. In the future, coal from the Gadegaon Mine will also be routed to the Mungoli Silo. As a result, the inconvenience currently faced by residents of Sakhara village will be substantially reduced. The silo loading system does not generate fugitive dust emissions. In addition, in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Environment, a 700-metre-long wind barrier will be constructed between the silo facility and Sakhara village to prevent windblown dust. WCL further stated that villagers may submit their requirements regarding the types of trees and saplings they wish to have planted, and WCL will undertake plantation accordingly. Skill development programmes can also be implemented under CER funding. The needs and demands of villagers will be collected, and necessary facilities and

Therefore, out of the proposed 250 hectares, around 10–15 hectares should be reserved for the plantation of tamarind, turmeric, and similar species. This would generate economic benefits for local communities. Finally, WCL's Human Resources Department should remain in regular contact with government departments and Gram Panchayats to understand the employment and healthcare needs of local people. WCL should appoint qualified experts within its Human Resources Department to conduct surveys and prepare comprehensive development plans so that the local population can derive maximum benefit from the project.	works will be undertaken through CER funds. Villagers are requested to make available suitable land and submit proposals specifying the types of trees they prefer. WCL will carry out plantation in accordance with Government guidelines and the proposals received from the villagers. The suggestions and recommendations made by the local people will be duly considered and implemented.
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43) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	You are seeking permission under the expansion project to deepen the mine from 100 metres to 200 metres. In your presentation, you stated that this deepening is likely to lower the groundwater table. As a result, in irrigated agricultural lands that have not been acquired by WCL, the water levels of natural sources such as tube wells and borewells may also decline. However, no information has been provided as to whether compensation for such losses will be paid by WCL as a one-time lump-sum payment or on an annual basis. It should be duly noted that if complaints are received in the future regarding borewells and tube wells drying up as a consequence of mining activities, WCL will be required to provide compensation for the resulting losses.	The Project Proponent stated that, at present, there is no policy in place regarding compensation for losses caused by a decline in groundwater levels. Furthermore, according to the data available from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), no reduction in groundwater levels has been observed so far. However, to promote groundwater recharge, village ponds are being deepened under the Amrit Sarovar Scheme. In addition, check dams will be constructed using water from the mine, and these structures will help in recharging groundwater. The Project Proponent further stated that if, in the future, the Government issues any directives regarding compensation for losses arising from a decline in groundwater levels, WCL will take



	action and provide compensation in accordance with such directives.
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44) Shri. Nikhil Shantaram Upase, Member, Gram Panchayat Sakhara (Ko.), Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	WCL has stated that coal from the Kolgaon Mine will be transported to Mungoli through a conveyor belt system. However, everyone present here, including the local residents and officials, is aware that implementing this system is not as simple as it appears. Therefore, information should be provided regarding the interim measures that will be taken until the conveyor belt system becomes operational. Whether the Wardha River bridge remains operational or not, coal transportation through Sakhara village will continue. Hence, separate parking facilities should be developed in the Mungoli and Painganga mining areas so that accidents can be avoided. As there is heavy traffic movement at the Sakhara Junction, security personnel should be deployed at that location. Such personnel could inform WCL whenever the road dries up after water sprinkling so that additional sprinkling can be carried out as required. This would also help prevent vehicles from stopping unnecessarily on the road and ensure that vehicle speeds remain within prescribed limits. Furthermore, no development works have been undertaken under CSR activities in the Sakhara Gram Panchayat area.	The Project Proponent stated that the construction work of the bridge over the Wardha River is in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of June. A response on this matter had already been provided earlier. Information regarding additional pollution control measures had also been furnished previously. Accordingly, two additional fog cannons will be installed. Further, a work order (award) has been issued for the procurement of a road sweeping machine, and the related work has already commenced. In the interim, a contractual road sweeping machine has been arranged and has been put into operation. In addition, two more water tankers will be deployed, thereby reducing the need for repeated follow-up requests regarding water sprinkling. Parking facilities for vehicles operating in the Painganga mining area will be provided at Painganga itself, while a separate parking facility for vehicles operating in the Mungoli area will be established at Mungoli. All necessary precautionary measures will be implemented strictly. Security guards will be deployed, and adequate measures will be taken to ensure that vehicle speeds remain within the prescribed limits. The Project Proponent further stated that proposals for various development works to be undertaken under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) have already been submitted to the



	concerned authorities for approval and implementation.
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45) Shri. Vijay Shyamrao Gargate, Dy. Sabhapati, Agricultural Producer Market Committee, Yenak, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The Yenora Phata-Yenak-Chikhli-Takli road was constructed under the Chief Minister's Road Scheme at a cost of approximately ₹3.75 crore. The land proposed to be acquired by you includes the area through which this road passes. Therefore, an alternative road should be provided for the benefit of local residents in place of the existing road. WCL makes use of public roads for its operations; however, it does not provide alternative roads when such roads are affected by mining activities. This issue should be addressed by constructing a suitable alternative route for the local population.	The Project Proponent stated that a diversion road (alternative route) will be provided for the said road. For this purpose, a proposal will first be submitted to the Public Works Department (PWD). Thereafter, the diversion road will be constructed in accordance with the standards and specifications prescribed by the PWD.

46) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	A question was raised as to why a surface miner has not been used in coal extraction to avoid blasting operations. In response, it was clarified that the use of a surface miner depends on the geological conditions of the mine. For example, surface miners are being used in the Mungoli and Niljai mines. However, in the Kolgaon Mine, the gradient is 1:2.5, making the use of a surface miner technically infeasible. Furthermore, the coal in this area is of the bituminous type. Questions were also raised regarding heavy metals. It was explained that heavy metal analysis is conducted regularly every six months. According to the available reports, no significant issues relating to heavy metals have been detected. The principal environmental concern in this area is particulate matter pollution (dust pollution). The concentration of heavy metals in the ambient air has been found to be below the detection limit. Questions were also asked regarding emissions of Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO _x). In response, it was clarified that these gases are not the primary pollutants associated with mining operations; rather, dust pollution constitutes the major environmental issue in the area. A question was raised as to why the baseline environmental study was conducted only during the

	period from October 2023 to December 2023. It was explained that, as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, baseline studies may be conducted either during the pre-monsoon or post-monsoon season. Accordingly, the study was undertaken during the post-monsoon period, i.e., from October 2023 to December 2023. A further question was asked regarding the selection of a village located 9 kilometres away for the baseline study. It was clarified that the entire 10-kilometre buffer zone must be represented in the study. For instance, since Kolgaon and Takli are situated close to each other, establishing separate monitoring stations at both locations is not necessary. Therefore, different villages representing the entire buffer area were selected. The selection of monitoring locations was carried out on the basis of the Wind Rose Diagram, considering villages located in the upwind, downwind, and crosswind directions so as to ensure adequate representation of the entire study area. An objection was also raised that the High Flood Line (HFL) had not been mentioned in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Report. However, it was clarified that information relating to the HFL of both the Wardha River and the Painganga River has been clearly provided on Page No. 452 of the EMP Report. Questions were also raised regarding the environmental consultant engaged for the study. In response, it was explained that any organization undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study must obtain accreditation from the Quality Council of India (QCI). Since the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) is a QCI-accredited organization, the work of preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report was entrusted to it.
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47) Adv. Rupesh Gunvant Thakare, Administrator, Gram Panchayat Mungoli, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I raised 21 issues, and as stated by the Hon'ble Chairman, information and responses regarding all the issues raised by me would be provided before the conclusion of the public hearing. Furthermore, it was stated that the public hearing would continue until satisfactory information regarding the issues raised by me was made available. It was also stated that the questions and concerns raised during the public hearing are addressed and responded to in a timely manner during the proceedings.	The Project Proponent stated that under the Kolgaon Expansion Project, the coal production capacity is proposed to be increased from 0.6 million tonnes per annum to 0.8 million tonnes per annum. In addition, the project area is proposed to be expanded from 392.67 hectares to 520.60 hectares. Accordingly, this public hearing has been organized for the proposed expansion project. A question had been raised regarding the exclusion of a total of 2.67 hectares of land belonging to Mr. Keshav Kundu Pimpalshende, Mrs. Kanta Bai Kisan Pimpalshende, and Mr. Dashrath Dharma Bhonskar of



		Shivani village from the land acquisition process. It was stated that a response to this issue had already been provided earlier and that a proposal regarding the acquisition of this land would be submitted shortly. The issue of providing employment in lieu of land pertaining to Survey/Group Nos. 104, 32, 263, and 266 was also raised. It was clarified that an explanation on this matter had already been provided earlier. It was further stated that, for the protection of tigers and wildlife, the invasive Prosopis species will be eradicated, and lighting arrangements will also be made at the required locations. A response on this matter had likewise been provided earlier.
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48) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	It is believed that a tiger's natural habitat is the place where it is born, and according to the rules of the Forest Department, a tiger should remain in the area where it was born. Due to the expansion and proximity of wildlife habitats, incidents of human-wildlife conflict have increased, and the administration is being held responsible for this situation. Information should be provided regarding the measures that will be taken to address and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. It was further stated that local residents have lost their lives as a result of attacks by wild animals, yet compensation has not been received in such cases. There are several similar cases in which compensation for deaths and losses caused by wildlife attacks has still not been paid to the affected families.	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that animals are not restricted to living only in the place where they are born; they can inhabit and move to other areas as well. He further stated that, in order to minimize losses and damage to local residents caused by wild animals, the invasive Prosopis vegetation will be removed, and necessary measures will be taken to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

49) **Adv. Rupesh Gunvant Thakare, Administrator, Gram Panchayat Mungoli, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-**

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	WCL should conduct a survey of the lands in villages where land has been acquired and where cultivation is still being carried out on WCL-owned land. In addition, complete eradication of Prosopis trees located around the villages should be undertaken, and efforts should be made to develop suitable plantation programmes in those areas. If WCL plans and implements these measures properly, the habitat conditions that facilitate the presence of tigers near villages will be reduced, and this will provide substantial long-term benefits to the affected villages. My demand is that this public hearing should lead to a meaningful improvement in the environmental conditions of Yavatmal District and should not be conducted merely as a procedural formality. I respectfully request the Hon'ble Chairman to issue directions for the responsible implementation of the proposed mitigation and environmental protection measures.	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL has already agreed to comply with the suggestions put forward by you. The Project Proponent stated that Mr. Rupesh had raised an issue regarding dust pollution on the Wardha River bridge near Niljai. In response, it was stated that the dust accumulated on the bridge would be cleaned regularly and that all necessary measures would be taken to control the problem. The issue regarding the provision of employment in lieu of land acquired for the Kolgaon Project had already been clarified earlier. Discussions had also previously been held regarding who would be eligible for employment and the manner in which such employment would be provided. A question was raised regarding when the proposal relating to employment would be submitted to the District Collector. In response, it was stated that this matter had already been clarified earlier and that the concerned proposal would be submitted by the end of the current month. To control dust pollution caused by coal transportation on roads, fog cannon machines have already been installed. In addition, arrangements for a road sweeping machine have been made, and an FMC project has also been proposed. The Kolgaon Project includes land from the villages of Kolgaon, Takli, Chikhli, and Yenak. Among these villages, the largest area of acquired land belongs to Yenak village.



		Information regarding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, environmental protection measures, and dust-control initiatives has already been provided earlier. A question was also raised regarding the provision of an ambulance for project-affected villages. In response, it was clarified that although a permanently stationed ambulance has not been provided, an ambulance is dispatched immediately whenever a request is received from the village. The relevant contact numbers have been made available to the Sarpanch, and an ambulance can be requested whenever necessary. It was further stated that health camps are organized regularly in the project-affected villages, where free medicines and medical treatment facilities are provided to local residents. The Project Proponent concluded by stating that the answer to the next question had already been provided earlier.
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50) Shri. Arvind Janardan Umare, Mungoli, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	By when will the borewell facility be provided in Mungoli village? The borewell has not yet been made operational, and there is currently no adequate water supply in the village. Local residents are being compelled to dig their own borewells. There is likely to be a severe water shortage during the month of May. Previously, water storage tanks with a capacity of approximately 2,000–3,000 litres had been installed in Mungoli village. Will similar water tanks be installed again? The drains constructed in the village are of extremely poor quality. WCL should issue a notice to the concerned contractor and ensure that proper	The Project Proponent stated that one borewell is currently operational in the Mungoli Rehabilitation Village. In addition, there is a proposal to install four more borewells. The construction of an overhead water tank is in progress and is currently underway. Furthermore, Syntex water storage tanks will be provided as and when required to ensure temporary water supply arrangements. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, directed that WCL should



concrete drains are constructed. Otherwise, the contractor's contract should be terminated. The drains should also be inspected by the Public Works Department (PWD). WCL had prepared the development plan for the area. It should have first constructed the roads and only thereafter undertaken the construction of drains. In other project areas, water supply facilities were provided first, followed by other infrastructure works. Similarly, facilities such as a Zilla Parishad school and a shed for the Gram Panchayat were provided in other areas. Why have similar facilities not been provided in this area? A water supply arrangement should be made available during the current month itself.	immediately provide drinking water facilities to the residents. The Project Proponent further stated that the drainage system was constructed first, followed by the construction of the roads. At present, some portions of the drains have been damaged due to the activities of contractors, while other sections have been damaged due to their use by villagers. Necessary repair and restoration work will be undertaken in this regard. It was also stated that appropriate arrangements would be made to ensure the availability of the required water supply facilities.
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51) Answers given by Project Proponent:-

Sr. No.	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	At present, one borewell is operational in Kurli Rehabilitation Village. In addition, a proposal has been prepared for the installation of four more borewells. The construction of an overhead water tank is currently in progress. Furthermore, to ensure a temporary water supply arrangement, Syntex water storage tanks will also be provided as required.

52) Shri. Vishwas Bhorpe, Shivani, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Section 4 was notified on 14 July 2025. Thereafter, a meeting was held between the Sub-Area Manager and Planning Officer of Mungoli and the District Collector. During that meeting, it was stated that after the implementation of Section 4 on 14/07/2025, Section 7 should have been notified before December 2025. The remaining lands in Chincholi and Shivani villages were also expected to be covered under Section 7. However,	The Project Proponent stated that the proposal for the diversion of the Niguda Nala has been submitted to the Chief Design Officer (CDO), Nashik. The work will commence after the design is approved by the concerned authority. For the Mungoli Project, the Section 4 Notification was published on 15 July 2025. Subsequently, the proposal under Section 7 was submitted to the Ministry. However, the proposal was



Section 7 has not been implemented to date. Earlier, the drainage channel (nala) was located about 1 kilometre away from the village. However, after its diversion, it has now come to within approximately 100 metres of the village boundary. Since this nala receives backwater from the Painganga River and the Wardha River, it is likely to cause significant damage to agricultural lands, livestock, and human settlements. The overburden dump embankment surrounds the village. The Mungoli-Shivani road, which belongs to the Zilla Parishad, used to pass through the middle of this embankment area. Since WCL acquired the land, the road has been dismantled. In 2025, WCL had given a written assurance that the road would not be closed until an alternative bituminous (asphalt) road had been constructed. However, WCL closed the road, and local residents are now facing serious difficulties in transportation and communication. WCL is also proposing to construct a new drainage channel, which may result in losses and damage to livestock and local residents. A meeting on this issue had been held under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Officer, during which WCL was asked to provide a written assurance. Therefore, WCL should issue a written undertaking stating that if any loss or damage is suffered by local residents as a result of these activities, the responsibility for such losses will rest with WCL.	returned by the Ministry because instructions had been issued that all such proposals must be submitted through the newly developed CLAMP Portal. Accordingly, the proposal under Section 7 was uploaded on the CLAMP Portal on 10 March 2026. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL should resolve the issue at the earliest possible opportunity. WCL should also undertake appropriate investigations and assessments keeping in view the possibility of future backwater-related problems. The Project Proponent further stated that a road has already been opened for traffic over the Mungoli embankment. Construction of the Water Bound Macadam (WBM) road on the embankment has been completed and the road has been opened for public use. Street lighting facilities have also been provided along the route. The work for bituminization (asphalt surfacing) of the road has already been awarded and implementation is in progress. It was further stated that the construction of the nala and culverts will not cause any damage. However, if any loss or damage is observed in the future, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Sub-Divisional Officer. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that WCL has been directed to take all necessary and appropriate action in this matter.
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53) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Due to the flow of water from the Kolgaon Mine reservoir/pond, my agricultural land has suffered damage, and the matter is still pending. I hope that WCL will complete the necessary remedial work during the current year. WCL has subsequently acquired land in certain villages where there is a possibility that overburden dumps may increase the risk of flooding and adversely affect local residents. These villages include Chikhli and Takli. Therefore, the residents of Chikhli and Takli have demanded that their villages be rehabilitated and resettled, considering the potential impacts and risks associated with the mining activities and overburden dumps.	The Project Proponent stated that if water accumulates in agricultural fields due to overburden (OB) dumping, suitable drains will be constructed wherever necessary to facilitate proper drainage and ensure the smooth flow of water. It was further stated that it is not possible to predict rainfall with complete accuracy. At times, extremely heavy rainfall may occur within a short period—for example, rainfall of 200 mm within a single hour—which can create flood-like conditions. In such situations, all necessary measures will be taken to ensure proper drainage of water. These measures will include the construction of drains, arrangements for removing water from waterlogged areas, and the provision of additional drainage facilities wherever required to prevent or minimize flooding and water accumulation.

54) Shri. Dnyaneshwar Bhaskar Tonge, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	During the 2006 flood situation, there was no overburden dumping at Sakhara. At that time, ample open space was available for water to spread and accumulate naturally. However, large-scale dumping has now been carried out in that area, and therefore there is a possibility of a major flood occurring in the future. During the 2006 floods, approximately 85–90% of the agricultural land was	The Project Proponent stated that WCL will conduct a survey of the area and take appropriate corrective and preventive measures wherever necessary to address the concerns raised.



	submerged, while only 10–15% of the farmland remained unaffected. Under the present circumstances, if a similar flood situation arises, there is a concern that the entire village could be submerged, owing to the reduced availability of open land and the extensive dumping activities carried out in the area.	
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55) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	This area lies near the confluence of the Wardha and Painganga Rivers. Therefore, even if only one of these two rivers experiences flooding, there is a significant possibility of extensive damage being caused in the surrounding region. If the Hon'ble Chairman conducts a site inspection, he will be able to personally assess and appreciate the seriousness of the situation and the potential risks faced by the local communities.	The Project Proponent stated that WCL will carry out a detailed survey and implement appropriate measures to address the concerns raised. Necessary remedial and preventive actions will be taken based on the findings of the survey.

56) Shri. Vasant Laxmanrao Musale, Chikhali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The District Collector, Yavatmal, had issued a letter dated 09/11/2020 to WCL Wani North Area, the Sub-Divisional Officer, Wani, the Sub-Area Manager, Ukni, and the Area Planning Officer, directing them to take immediate action regarding the rehabilitation and resettlement of Chikhli village. However, no action has been taken on the matter to date. Under the proposal, the rehabilitation of both Chikhli and Parmund villages had been contemplated. While	The Project Proponent stated that the issue pertains to the Wani North Area and falls within its jurisdiction and responsibility. Therefore, the matter is related to the Wani North Area administration rather than the present project or area under consideration.

	Parmund village has already been rehabilitated, Chikhli village has not yet been rehabilitated, despite the directions issued by the District Collector and the considerable lapse of time since then.	
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57) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The present condition of Chikhali village is similar to that of Takali village, and there is a strong possibility that serious problems may arise in the future. Therefore, this issue has been raised at this stage. The purpose of bringing this matter to attention is to ensure that WCL and the administration are aware of the potential risks and challenges in advance, so that appropriate preventive measures can be taken and future difficulties for both the local residents and the authorities can be avoided.	The Project Proponent stated that your concerns and issues have been duly recorded and taken on record for consideration.

58) Shri. Narendra Ramdas Nande, Former Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Sakhara, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I request that oral responses be provided to the questions I have raised during this public hearing. At the time when Section 4 was implemented, some portions of the land in our village were acquired, while certain other parcels of land were left out of the acquisition process. An assurance had also been given that regular water sprinkling would be carried out to control dust pollution. Information should be	The Project Proponent stated that approximately 10% of the land in Sakhara village still remains outside the acquisition process. According to the approved Project Report, all land presently required for the project has already been acquired. If the project is expanded in the future and additional land becomes necessary, acquisition of the remaining land will be considered at that stage. For the present, the land acquisition process

provided regarding the dust pollution likely to be caused by the silo facility. Details should also be furnished regarding the number of health camps conducted in our village during the last 5–10 years. At present, there is insufficient agricultural land available in our village, employment opportunities are scarce, and health-related problems have increased significantly. Therefore, our village should be considered for rehabilitation and resettlement. In addition, employment opportunities should be provided to both skilled and unskilled workers from the village so that local residents can secure sustainable livelihoods.

has been completed in accordance with the requirements specified in the Project Report. If rainwater flows from the overburden (OB) dump, suitable drains will be constructed around the dump to ensure proper drainage. In addition, major drainage channels will be developed to prevent waterlogging and to facilitate the smooth flow of stormwater. These measures will ensure the safe and effective disposal of rainwater. Concerns were raised that dust pollution may increase once the silo system becomes operational. However, the Project Proponent stated that, in his opinion, dust pollution would reduce significantly after commissioning of the silo. Once the silo system is operational, approximately 90% of coal transportation by road will be eliminated. Furthermore, a continuous dust suppression system will remain operational within the silo facility. In addition, a wind barrier measuring 700 metres in length and 10 metres in height is proposed. This will substantially reduce the spread of dust. Some people believe that dust generation during loading at the silo will be similar to loading by payloader operations. However, this is not expected to occur because coal loading in the silo will take place through a closed-compartment system, resulting in minimal dust emissions and reduced environmental impacts.

The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that information on these matters had already been provided during the project presentation and in response to issues raised during the public hearing. He further directed WCL to take note of the demand relating to rehabilitation and resettlement.



	The Project Proponent further stated that nutrition kits have been provided to students in the school at Sakhara. An amount of ₹12.40 lakh has been spent on the construction of drainage works in Sakhara village. The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, directed WCL to verify whether the drainage construction work had actually been carried out as claimed. The Project Proponent also stated that proposals have been made to introduce smart classrooms in schools. Solar-powered streetlights will be installed in the villages of Sakhara, Matholi, and Jagad. Furthermore, WCL will incorporate a condition in future contracts requiring that 80% of employment opportunities be provided to local residents from project-affected villages.
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59) Shri. Vasant Laxmanrao Musale, Chikhali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	While acquiring land in Chikhli village, Survey Nos. 18, 19, and 20 were excluded from acquisition. As a result, it has become difficult to carry out agricultural activities on the remaining fragmented land. Similarly, in 2024, land bearing Survey Nos. 91, 92, and 93 was initially left out of the acquisition process. However, subsequently, Survey Nos. 91 and 93 were acquired, whereas Survey No. 92 was excluded. This has created practical difficulties for the affected landholders. A representation had also been submitted to the District	The Project Proponent stated that the Project Report for any mining project is prepared by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) and is treated as the final approved document. Land acquisition cannot be undertaken for areas lying outside the boundaries defined in the approved Project Report. Therefore, land situated beyond the approved project limits cannot be considered for acquisition, as it falls outside the scope of the sanctioned project area.



	Collector, Yavatmal, requesting that a survey be conducted in this regard and that the issue be examined appropriately.	
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60) Shri. Dashrath Patil, Takali, Tal. Wani, Dist. Yavatmal:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Four mining projects have been developed around the villages of Chikhli and Takli. As a result, the residents of these two villages are facing increasing problems related to pollution, flood situations, and disturbances caused by wildlife. In view of these cumulative impacts, it is humbly requested that the administration take responsibility for the rehabilitation and resettlement of both Chikhli and Takli villages so that the affected residents can be provided with a safer and more sustainable living environment.	The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Magistrate, Yavatmal, stated that your concerns, suggestions, and issues have been duly noted and recorded for consideration.

The Chairman of the Public Hearing briefed the people present if there are any other question/issues, the same may be asked. However, nobody came with any question. He announced that copy of the proceedings and CD of the public hearing will be made available in due course of time in MPCB office at Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.

The Chairman of the Committee while concluding the proceedings, summarized various points raised and declared that public hearing is ended, and concluded the public hearing with vote of thanks.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed 16 suggestions/objections received by the office.



(Sushilkumar Rathod)
Convener, Environment
Public Hearing Committee &
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB,
Chandrapur



(Tanaji Yadav)
Member, Environment Public
Hearing Committee &
Regional Officer, MPCB,
Chandrapur



(Anil Khandagale)
Chairman, Environment
Public Hearing Committee &
Additional District Magistrate,
Yavatmal, Dist. Yavatmal.