

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Expansion of Sugar Factory By Increasing The Sugar Cane Crushing Capacity From 7,000.0 TCD to 15,000.0 TCD (Expansion By 8,000.0 TCD) And The Co-Generation Capacity From 28.0 MW To 68.0 MW (Expansion By 40.0 MW) Proposed By Project Proponent M/s Rajarambapu Patil Sahakari Sakhar Kharkhana Limited, Gat Nos. 1152, 1170, 1292, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, Rajaramnagar, Post-Sakharale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli – 415 414, Maharashtra State –

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Expansion of Sugar Factory By Increasing The Sugar Cane Crushing Capacity From 7,000.0 TCD to 15,000.0 TCD (Expansion By 8,000.0 TCD) And The Co-Generation Capacity From 28.0 MW To 68.0 MW (Expansion By 40.0 MW) Proposed By Project Proponent M/s Rajarambapu Patil Sahakari Sakhar Kharkhana Limited, Gat Nos. 1152, 1170, 1292, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, Rajaramnagar, Post-Sakharale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli – 415 414, Maharashtra State was held on Friday, the 14th August, 2026 at 11.00 a.m. at Project Site - Gat No. 1152, Near Main Gate, Rajaramnagar, Post-Sakharale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli – 415 414, Maharashtra State.

Dr. Mainak Ghosh, IAS, District Magistrate-Sangli And Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed before starting of the meeting that this Environment Public Hearing is constituted only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Suggestions/Objections received from local people will be submitted alongwith minutes of the meeting to the Government. He informed Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee to start the Public Hearing.

Shri Pramod Mane, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli (Addl. Charge) and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Dr. Mainak Ghosh, IAS, District Magistrate-Sangli and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Shri Nikhil Gharat, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were

present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on the Environment said that we have gathered here today for environment public consultation for Proposed Expansion of Sugar Factory By Increasing The Sugar Cane Crushing Capacity From 7,000.0 TCD to 15,000.0 TCD (Expansion By 8,000.0 TCD) And The Co-Generation Capacity From 28.0 MW To 68.0 MW (Expansion By 40.0 MW) Proposed By Project Proponent M/s Rajarambapu Patil Sahakari Sakhar Kharkhana Limited, Gat Nos. 1152, 1170, 1292, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, Rajarnanagar, Post-Sakharale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli – 415 414, Maharashtra State.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, Gol) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

He informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 11.06.2026 from Project Proponent M/s Rajarambapu Patil Sahakari Sakhar Kharkhana Limited, Gat Nos. 1152, 1170, 1292, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, Rajarnanagar, Post-Sakharale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli – 415 414, Maharashtra State to conduct Environment Public Hearing in respect of Expansion of Sugar Factory By Increasing The Sugar Cane Crushing Capacity From 7,000.0 TCD to 15,000.0 TCD (Expansion By 8,000.0 TCD) And The Co-Generation Capacity From 28.0 MW To 68.0 MW (Expansion By 40.0 MW) at Gat Nos. 1152, 1170, 1292, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, Rajarnanagar, Post-Sakharale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli – 415 414, Maharashtra State.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No. 533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006, the proposed activities fall under Category "B1" - Schedule 5 (j) Sugar Industries & 1 (d) – Co-generation Power Project, which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

(SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory

Project Proponent has submitted an online application dated 13-10-2025 to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) and prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai and it is approved Online by State Environment Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai on 19-10-2025.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has appointed an Environmental Consultant who has obtained NABET Approval as per the directives of the Government of India and have carried out the environmental assessment through the environmental consultant. A detailed environmental survey within a 10.0 km radius of the project site was carried from 03-03-2025 to 31-05-2025 (three months).

It is submitted to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 11.06.2026.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 16.06.2026 directed Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli vide letter dated 03.07.2026 requested Hon. District Collector, Sangli to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Sangli vide letter dated 03.07.2026 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 14th August, 2026 at 11.00 a.m. at Project Site - Gat No. 1152, Near Main Gate, Rajaramnagar, Post-Sakharale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli – 415 414, Maharashtra State.

After getting sanction from District Collector, Sangli, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 and as per Amended Notification S.O. 3067 (E) Dated 01-12-2009 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide letter dated 11.08.2026 as under: -

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

Chairman

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

Member

3) Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli

Convener

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli in the local newspaper in daily Sakal for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Times of India for English on 10-07-2026. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

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

1)	Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001	
2)	Hon'ble Collector, Collector's Office, Sangli,	
3)	General Manager, District Industries Centre, Sangli,	
4)	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Sangli,	
5)	Department of Environment and Climate Change, New Administration Building, 15th Floor, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032	
6)	Hon. Member, Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, in front of Movie Max Cinema, First, Second, Third Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai - 400 022	
7)	Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhawan Building, Near Collector's Office, Kolhapur – 416 002	
8)	Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 300/2, Udyog Bhavan, Near Government Guest House, Vishrambaug, Sangli – 416 415	
9)	Tahsildar, Tehsil Office, New Building, Kacheri Chowk, Near Shivaji Maharaj Statue, Ishwarpur, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli – 415 409	
10)	Prantadhikari, Prantadhikari Office, Main Administrative Building, Ishwarpur, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli;	

11)	Chief Officer, Ishwarpur Municipal Council, Ishwarpur, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli,
12)	Gram Sevaks, Gram Panchayat Offices: Sakhrale, Borgaon, Hubalwadi, Kapuskhed, Farnewadi, Bahe, Nerle, Old Khed, Tujarpur, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli
13)	Website Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai - Marathi & English Executive Summary Report is available.

Convener informed that total 9 suggestions/objections by email/hand delivery/by post have been received by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Sangli regarding the proposed project.

Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting in Marathi and English after approval of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent 'to start the presentation.

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

Environment Consultant informed that in view of the increasing availability of sugarcane in the area, the factory administration has planned to expand the sugarcane crushing capacity of the sugar unit so that the sugarcane of the local farmers is crushed at the right time and the local farmers will not suffer any loss. The area

available with the factory is 64.86 hectares and since the proposed project expansion will be done within the area available with the project, there will be no displacement and no additional land is required for the expansion project. The existing 21.85 hectares of land in the project has been used for greenbelt development.

Project Proponent is making efforts to conserve natural resources by adopting green technologies in the industry. For this, it is proposed to adopt a rainwater harvesting system.

The proposed investment in the project is ₹383.0 crore including CER cost and ₹15.60 crore will be invested for environmental management. The group's environmental responsibility expenditure (CER) is ₹2.85 crore.

The capacity of the ETP operating in the sugar factory will be increased on the industrial effluent generated in the process. The condensate water from the sugar division will be treated in the CPU and recycled for the distillery plant and the rest will be used for greenbelt and agriculture.

In the proposed project, an Electro-Static-Precipitator (ESP) with a 72-meter-high chimney will be commissioned.

Proposed expansion will provide employment opportunity to hundred persons in the project.

Project environment consultant while concluding the presentation said that the project will increase the revenue of the local gram panchayat. It will also provide employment opportunities to the locals. This will bring drastic changes in the social and economic life here. This project is in the interest of the local area, the state of Maharashtra and the country.

After the completion of the presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee has instructed to inform about the suggestions/objections as received.

Accordingly, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that 30 days' before the day of the public hearing, a public hearing notice was published in the local newspaper Dainik Sakal in Marathi and in the national newspaper Daily Times of India in English on 10-07-2026 to inform all the public about the proposed project. Also, after making all the documents related to the project available to the notified offices for public perusal and information, the Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sangli has received a total of 09 (nine) written suggestions, objections/ objections received physically, by email and from various offices. It has

also received 134 comments. Total, 143 suggestions/ objections/ comments have been received.

Convener informed that the 134 comments/criticisms that have been received have been received on various aspects of the factory. All these suggestions / objections received will be submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting.

Out of the 09 (nine) suggestions/objections received in the MPCB Office, 06 written suggestions/objections have been submitted to the office. The other three suggestions/objections have been received through email.

In it, Shri Mohan Mane, Sakhrle have filed an objection that the factory which is set up at Gat No. 1752, has not obtained the various statutory permissions regarding setting of factory at the respective gat number. Also, objections have been filed that the proposed project will affect the pollution of air, water and noise as well as the health of the people and animals in the area.

Similarly, the citizens of Sakhrle and Ambedkar Nagar have raised various issues. It has been objected that the project promoters have started the work without permission before obtaining environmental clearance and 80-90% of the work has been completed. It has also been objected that no information has been made available about the preliminary approval (Terms of Reference) obtained from the government regarding what basis and what letters were submitted.

Objections have also been raised about the sampling procedures conducted by the environmental consultant during the inspection and the collection of water, air and other samples. There is no explanation about the technical specifications of the ZLD system that will be implemented in the proposed project. Also, objections have been raised on various issues such as the project promoter has not obtained Consent to Establish the project (Consent to Establish-C to E) from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for this proposed project.

Similarly, Shri Shankarrao Bhimrao Mohite, resident of Sakhrle and villagers Sakhrle objected that there is pollution of water, air and noise from the working project. If the plant allows for an increase in production capacity, pollution will only increase.

Shri Sunil Farate, Swatantra Bharat Party, objected that action has been taken against the factory many times so far. The petition filed in this regard is pending before

the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal , Western Zone, Pune. The government should take further decision regarding the expansion only after referring to it.

Shri Ravindra Raghunath Pisal has raised the issue of pollution in the working project and suggested that the government should take a further decision after considering it. If the factory is found to have done anything wrong, the expansion work should be stopped immediately.

Mr. Ghanshyam alias Jaykar Dinkar Jadhav raised the issue that the factory had started the expansion work even before obtaining environmental clearance. In this regard, the work of the project should be audited. If so, further expansion should be discontinued immediately.

Similarly, the citizens of Sakhrle and Borgaon have raised various issues. Objections have been raised about whether the work has been started before taking prior permission from various government authorities. Also, the villagers have raised 29 issues/points regarding the Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIA) prepared and the information given by the Project Environment Consultant.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the suggestions, views, criticisms, objections raised by them in the meeting will be noted. Similarly, all the suggestions, objections received by the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office will be submitted alongwith minutes of meeting to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai. Further decision in this regard will be taken by the Expert Committee there. Also, the 134 suggestions and objections that have been registered will also be submitted to the government. Convener of the Meeting said that with the concurrence of the Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, the participants are appealed to submit their environmental suggestions, views, comments or objections regarding the proposed project. While registering your suggestions/objections, you should first mention your name and place of residence. Also, do not waste time in raising the same issues so that others can also be given a chance to speak.

Convener told the participants that they will be video-recording the issues raised and the minutes of the public hearing will be prepared in Marathi and English. However, those who want to raise their suggestions, raise their hands so that everyone can be given a mike.

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

1) Shri Mahadev Pawar, Chairman, Shetkari Sanghatana-Sakhrale, Post Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:

I have already submitted a written complaint regarding discharge of spent wash. It should be attended at the earliest.

The spent wash of the Rajarambapu Sugar Factory discharges in our fields. Due to this, our agriculture land is totally damaged. The factory should compensate us. Also, the ash in black and white colour of bagasse released from the project falls in large quantities in our village. Lot of ash falls in Ambedkar Nagar. As a result, crops are being damaged. Also, the spent wash discharged from this factory mixes with the river water, due to which there are fish killing incidences. Company should take note of this.

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

2) Shri Ravindra Raghunath Pisal, At Post- Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

My written complaint has been submitted. We are facing so much trouble presently when this factory has a crushing capacity of 6,000 tonnes per day, but after expansion, the crushing capacity will be 15,000 tonnes per day, we cannot imagine what will happen then. With the increase in production, there will also be a huge increase in the effluent. Also, a large quantity of bagasse ash of white colour from the project falls in the area and in Ambedkar Nagar. If a black man goes out of the house at night, he returns back becoming white.

The bagasse ash from the factory mixes into the food even when we eat. It falls on the clothes and falls into the water of the wells in the area. The factory should be inspected while it is operations, so that you can see how large quantity of the ash of the company is falling. Factory officials say that we have installed modern machineries in the factory and a new pollution control system has been installed. The area should be inspected while the factory is in operation.

This is causing damage to horticulture. Ash has drastically reduced the production of field crops. However, the factory management says that they have installed modern machineries to control pollution. So once the factory is operations, visit and inspect how the ash falls. What will happen if company produces 15,000.0 tonnes per day?

It seems to us that 80% of the expansion work of the project has already been completed and this Environment Public Hearing is being held later. Therefore, I condemn this meeting. Factory has built a canal to flow the effluent of the factory. Our village has a water supply scheme. The water tax is cut every year. The effluent/spent wash of the factory mixes in the river water. They are filtering the

water in which spent wash of factory is mixed and giving it to us to drink. It means that spent wash from the factory mixes into the river water which is filtered and given back to us to drink.

Releasing of ash is kept closed during the day. In night, it is released into the atmosphere in a large scale. Hence, we request that our complaint be noted and sent to the government.

Environment Public Hearing Committee replied that the issues/objections raised by you have been noted.

3) Shri Raghunathdada Patil:-

Now the objection raised by the local people in the meeting that the work of the proposed project has already started should be clarified whether it is true or false.

Project Environment Consultant replied that now the local people have raised objections that 50-70% of the work of the expansion project has been completed. The work that is going on in the project is to reduce the steam consumption in the project. The system which was in operation in the sugar plant was outdated. It needed to be replaced. The old machinery was causing more steam consumption. Work is going on in the project for the purpose of extraction of sugarcane juice efficiently. This work has nothing to do with the expansion project. The crushing capacity of the operational plant is 7,000.0 tonnes per day and will remain the same. The project that is currently underway is modernizing the machinery.

Environment Consultant replied that here participants objected regarding ash which falls on the field, on the clothes. He clarified that the ash flies while igniting the boiler, because it is a continuous process.

He informed that Project Proponent has already installed an Online Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (OCEMS) which is made mandatory by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). One connection is connected to the Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi and other is in the office of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai. If at all emission is slightly higher than the prescribed limits, then immediately an alert message is sent on the mobile of project officials and consultant by both the government agencies. There is no human intervention. The system is constantly working online.

Shri Ravindra Raghunath Pisal, resident of Post - Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli objected and demanded that that MPCB officials should come for day and night inspection in the months of December and January. Then only the officials will realize how much ash falls.

Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that objections have been noted.

4) Shri Shashikant Mane, Residence - Post Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

I am 100% opposing the expansion of the project. Because the factory management has not reduced the pollution caused by the factory and people in the area are suffering due to the existing project. We are not at all against the development. A very informative presentation has been made by the Environmental Consultant. Plots/land of our father have been acquired for the project. The goal of the factory founders was to bring financial stability through development. That is why we have voluntarily given land to the factory.

We live just 10-15 feet away from the project. For the last 3-4 years, we have been suffering a lot due to bagasse released from the factory. As a result, the local people in the area are suffering due to stomach, chest and lung disorders. Children in particular are suffering a lot. If environmental consultants have a modern screening system, we and our lungs should be checked. I will support the project only if I don't have a bagasse in my lungs.

My father suffered from asthma and died due to the pollution of this bagasse. A major in the neighborhood has also died of asthma and respiratory problems. Many senior citizens and elderly people live in the area. Almost all of them have respiratory problems. The main reason for this is sulfur dioxide, as shown in the presentation. Due to this, people are suffering from lung, respiratory disorders and mental health has deteriorated. Irritability has increased. This means that the health of the people here is in complete danger.

I condemn Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. They have submitted a proposal to the Gram Panchayat. The booklet is given in Marathi and the main report of the subject is given in English. How can all the common people and farmers here read the English report, because they do not understand English? We don't know what are the advantages and disadvantages of the expansion project. We have submitted 19 points of objection to it from an expert person and we should be get answers.

In the project report, the distance between the project and Sakhrule village is given incorrectly. The environmental survey conducted by the Environmental Consultant in the project area was carried out in the period of three months from March-May. The pollution level at that time is given in the report. However, if the environmental survey of the area had been done during the season, then all the pollution levels would have been different. My point should be noted. I am not opposing any development. But if we have to sacrifice our health and life for development, then we do not want it. Many of these points have been recorded in the written objection. However, we should be given justice and the right decision should be taken.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the objections raised have been noted and the Project Proponent has been directed to answer in writing to the objections submitted by the participants.

Here, Environment Consultant clarified that as per the directives of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as passed by Government of India, the environmental survey was carried within 10 km radius of the project area

and accordingly Executive Summary Report was made available in the local language Marathi for the information and perusal of all the villagers thirty days before the public hearing at the Gram Panchayat offices of the project affected villages.

Also, the suggestions/views/objections submitted by the local people in writing will be answered in writing only.

5) Shri Suhas Raghunath Patil, Residence- Sakhrale Village, Taluka- Walwa, District-Sangli:-

In the last 15-20 years, the production of sugarcane in this area was 20-22%. The farmers here have progressed in agriculture activities and have produced up to 100 tonnes. Sugarcane production in the area has increased. Therefore, it is also important to crush it on time. We are not opposed to development, but the issues of sufferings raised by the local people should be addressed. Most of the land of Sakharale village have been given by Sakharale villagers for this project, hence justice should be given to them.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that all the suggestions/objections have been noted.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that on behalf of Chairman Project Proponent is directed that all written questions / suggestions / objections should be answered in writing. All those documents will be submitted to the Government.

6) Advocate Jitendra Kamat:

Earlier, objections have been submitted in writing on 10-02-2026. Today I am representing as lawyer on behalf of some villagers. I am submitting my written arguments and affidavits also after oral arguments.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed to submit written suggestions/objections, to which the Advocate said that he would submit a written argument.

The advocate asserted that some villagers here raised some points about the pollution from this project. Hence, I am not repeating the same. All the points are presented in the objection in writing. However, here are some verbal points:-

A perusal of the 56th report of M/s Rajarambapu Patil Co-operative Sugar Factory Limited, Rajaramnagar, Post-Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli shows that page no. 26, point number 3, it is stated that - Current season - 25-11-2024 and the season was closed - 03-03-2025. On the other hand, a review of the report given by the Sugarcane Juice Society indicates that the various samples collected by the Environmental Consultant (sample/s of collection) of Ambient Air Quality, the samples were collected on 12-03-2025, i.e., after the end of the factory season. It would have been taken during the season, the level of air pollution would have been known. So what's the problem of taking air pollution samples during the season?

Next point - Regarding noise pollution -

On Page No. 68 of Annexure, It is stated that –

The noise level of Sakhrule village is 54.2 decibels during the day and 44.0 decibels at night. I would say that there is a difference. The discrepancy is as follows:-

Environment Impact Assessment Report of the proposed project -Sr. No. 9.3.6 – Noise Pollution -In this point, it is stated that –

" The noise generated in the plant will be limited in nature, so the level of noise in the factory premises will be 75.0 decibels during the day and 70.0 decibels at night.

However, the report notes that the noise level during the day is 54.2 decibels during the day time and 44.0 decibels at night time. So there is no clarity on whether the noise level in the report is given during the season or after the season is closed.

Next point – It means that the question of whether the sample was taken during the season or when the season closed is known from the date. Because -

Date of Receipt of Sample – 24-03-2025. Dates should be recorded, because they are important. –

Soil/Soil Testing: The dates are as follows:

Date of Sampling – 19-03-2025 & 21-03-2025;

Date of receipt of Sample – 24-03-2025;

This means that all the samples have been collected only after the end of the season.

Next point:

Groundwater samples:

The dates of collection of ground water samples are the same as 20-03-2025 and 21-03-2025.

The date of receipt of sample is – 24-04-2025 . On this date, it was submitted for analysis at Vasantdada Sugar Institute.

Next point:

Surface Water Samples-

Date of collection of water samples – 20-03-2025 and

Date of Receipt of Sample – 24-04-2025 It was submitted for analysis at Vasantdada Sugar Institute.

Also, photographs are attached with my objections. Our objection is that 80-90% of the work has been completed without prior approval of the Competent-Authority. Annexures 1-5 are attached with my objection dated 10-02-2026. Please go through it. The boiler should be inspected.

They have also admitted to the extension as mentioned in the project report. The report states that:-

Farmers should give their entire sugarcane to the factory and co-operate. The sugarcane production of Sugarcane Producers' Member in the Eastern Jurisdiction was 28 tonnes per acre. However, in the last few years, thousands of farmers have been able to produce more than 100 tonnes per acre due to this 100 tonnes initiative implemented in collaboration with VSI.

This means that Project Proponent have expanded and have appealed to the local farmers to send sugarcane. So what kind of public hearing? This public hearing is a farce.

Now Regarding Legal Aspect:-

During the meeting, Environmental consultant said that the project is being modernized and the old machinery has to be replaced. Primary recognition only – As per the directive of ToR No. 3.8, the report has not been made available from time to time by the citizens as per the circular dated 8th June, 2022. I am of the opinion that the factory has not fulfilled the circular dated 8th June 2022. My objection should be accepted as the Project Proponents have violated the terms and conditions.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) included in the preliminary approval received by the project proponents still contain a condition regarding statutory compliance.

Page No. 11 Sr. No. 1.3:-

Latest compliance report only certified by the Regional Officer of MoEF & CC for the conditions stipulated in the environmental and CRZ clearances of the previous phase(s) for the expansion project shall be submitted.

As the factory has not complied with any terms and conditions as above, the extension proposal of the Project Proponent should be rejected.

Next point:

As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to obtain prior Environmental Clearance (EC) before commissioning or expanding any project and for this, it is mandatory to any project to conduct/hold Environment Public Hearing in advance of State Pollution Control Board here -Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). Despite this, 80-90% work without prior permission has been done. Moreover, not a single brick can be erected at the project site without Environmental Clearance, prior permission of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) - Consent to Establish-(C to E). This is total violation of environmental law. As per the various directives, MPCB can pass an order to stop work. The project can be delayed for three years. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has also been given the power to impose financial penalties and court action. However, if the factory has taken permission, it has not been explained.

On July 15, 2022, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) initiated action against the factory under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. As this factory has failed to comply with the consent conditions as granted by Board while operating at the capacity of 7,000.0 TCD, MPCB has forfeited the bank

guarantee of ₹ 5/- lakh (Rupees Five lakh only). MPCB has already submitted the same in the Writ Petition at National Green Tribunal, Western Region, Pune.

Similarly, an affidavit of the villagers has been filed. Its draft was read by the Advocate as -Shri Bajirao Vishnu Mane, 68 - Black soot and white ash from the factory are settling in our village. Particles from the factory's bagasse flows into the surrounding villages

The anguish of the villagers is that all the villagers in the area are suffering due to the pollution of this factory. There is only one way to go. There is a pollution, due to which it is difficult for the villagers to live in the village.

It has to be seen whether the Renewal of Consent to Operate dated 21-09-2025 as granted by MPCB complies with the terms and conditions of Schedule 1.

In view of the feeling of the villagers and the legal fulfillment, the villagers are suffering due to the pollution of the ongoing project, if permission is given to expand it, it will increase the pollution and it will be impossible for the villagers to live. However, the villagers have objected to the expansion and request that this expansion proposal be canceled.

Environmental consultant said that the issues raised by advocate Jitendra Kamat include monitoring and the Project Proponents are requested to give clarification regarding the expansion.

In response, Mr. More stated, through the project proponent, that Now modernization has been started in the project. Because the factory started in 1970. Therefore, many of the machinery in the project were outdated, it is advisable to replace the old machinery after a period of time. It has nothing to do with the expansion project. Modernization is going to increase the efficiency of our factory. Boilers and turbines have been replaced. The factory will benefit from the savings of bagasse. We are doing all the work in the factory under the rules of the government.

7) Shri Raghunathdada Patil:-

Project Proponents are giving false and misleading information. None of the boilers or turbines have been replaced. The only change has been made in the Evaporator. It is correct.

He requested Chairman of the Committee that the local activists here have objected that the expansion work has been done by 70-80%. The villagers' lawyers have also filed an affidavit objecting that the expansion work has been completed by Project Proponent without permission. So you have to decide whether there is an expansion.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that this is an Environmental public hearing. This committee has no authority to take any decision. The affidavit submitted by the lawyers of the villagers in the meeting will be submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting. The government will take further decision in this regard.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that he himself had given an explanation at the beginning of the meeting. This Environment Public Hearing Committee has been constituted in accordance with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and the limits of the Committee have been stated at the beginning of the meeting. The purpose of this environmental public hearing is to listen to the environmental suggestions, views, objections of the people of the project affected areas and record them in the minutes of the meeting and submit it to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai. An Expert Committee takes further decisions in this regard. You should understand that this Environment Public Hearing Committee is not quasi-judicial.

Shri Raghunath Patil opined that my point was not that Chairman of the Committee should take a decision. The public hearing is being held about the proposed project. The affidavit is submitted here that 80% work has been done. The factory administration says that we are modernizing. Then the affidavit should be told whether it is true or false.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that the point raised by a lawyer during the meeting, he has also outlined the subsequent course of action. The issues raised by the advocate will be answered in writing by the Project Proponent and all the documents will be submitted to the government. Further decision in this regard will be taken at the government level. The point you have raised has been noted.

At that time, Shri Raghunathdada Patil opined that now Environment Public Hearing Committee has said that all the suggestions and objections raised by us will be submitted to the government. If the work is completed, the government will impose a penalty. It goes to the factory. The individual Board of Directors, Project Proponent does not get it. The factory means all of us are "Members". So now, it has to be decided whether the expansion work has really started without permission.

8) Shri Baburao Nivrutti Patil, former Sarpanch-Sakhrale Gram Panchayat and present Gram Panchayat Member, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:

I was an elected sarpanch. My point is that the Project Proponent doesn't expand for the first time. The factory has been in operation for the last 60 years. Earlier, 1,200 TCD capacity became 2,500 TCD, 5,000 TCD became 7,000 TCD. Government permission has been obtained from time to time. The construction of this factory has given a boost to agriculture and industries in the Taluka. The quality of agriculture has improved. Income has increased, our social status has gone up. Because the crop we grow is converted into sugar and we are paid for it. Two generations ago, we had mud houses, which are now RCC. Houses have been built. With the improvement in the health system here, our health has improved. Those who opposed the expansion in the meeting are the traditional opponents of the factory.

At that time, a group of people stood together in front of the Environment Public Hearing Committee and started talking loudly that the issue of politics should not be raised here. Here, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to everyone to sit and raise the issues calmly.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to raise technical, environmental suggestions, objections regarding the proposed expansion project.

At that time, Convener of the Committee said that no comments should be made for any suggestions/objections raised by any participants. Also, nobody should talk to each other.

Shri Baburao Nivrutti Patil, former Sarpanch-Sakhrule Gram Panchayat and Present Gram Panchayat Member, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli said that the previous generation did not have water for the field here, there was little income. The factory provided irrigation and water to the farm. As a result, the income of agriculture increased and our economic and social status increased. The factory is like our mother organization.

However, the factory should set up state-of-the-art facilities for pollution control and pollution-free areas. However, we support expansion. He appealed to the participants to raise their hands and show support.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed that every person should only present his opinion and let the other raise his opinion. Don't ask others to support you.

9) Shri Vinod Rajaram Babar, Residence - Sakhrule, Taluka, Walwa, District-Sangli:-

Before this factory became operational, many people from our village used to go to Borgaon to work as labourers. But after the factory started, we prospered. My income per acre was 20-40 tonnes earlier, which is now going up to 140.0 tonnes. We started to send our sugarcane crop from our area to another factory for crushing because the production capacity was less. Therefore, we want the factory to be expanded to 25,000 tonnes per day in addition to 15,000 tonnes per day. We started giving high quality sugarcane out because there was no capacity here. Also, our children can study upto junior college after taking admission in LKG in English medium. We have developed because of this factory.

10) Shri Tanajirao Janardan Patil, Residence - Borgaon, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

I fully support future factory expansion. With the operation of the factory, the price of land here has gone up to two lakhs per guntha. This factory has brought thirty thousand hectares of land in Walwa taluka under horticulture. The taluka used to produce sugarcane worth Rs 100 crore, which now produces sugarcane worth Rs 700-800 crore. We villagers are not thinking only of one person, but of the society. So whatever required, the amount of money will be spent on pollution control.

However, we want this factory to be 15,000.0 tonnes per day or 25,000.0 tonnes per day.

11) Shri Jitendra Laxman Patil, Sarpanch, Borgaon Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:

Due to functioning of this factory, our stream is polluted as effluent from this factory is generated in our stream. Due to this, our drinking water is getting spoiled, agriculture is damaged due to contaminated water and local fishing is being affected due to contaminated water.

Similarly, the new boiler which has been activated by the factory is causing pollution and the villagers living in Shindemala, Shivajinagar, Salgar Basti etc. in the area are suffering due to problem of breathing. Similarly, the land in the west of the village as well as in Borgaon has been damaged and the wells have been damaged. Air pollution is adversely affecting the health of the people there.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the attendees to present their points briefly, not to repeat the same points raised by others. This will allow more people to participate.

12) Shri Shankar Bhimrao Mohite, Residence - Sakhrale, Taluka- Walwa, District, Sangli, Chairman, Shetkari Sanghatana, Sangli District:

In the meeting, participants have registered suggestions and objections regarding water, air and soil pollution. My point is same. I am a member of this factory. We oppose the expansion of this factory.

So my objection is that the crushing of this factory was about 22 lakhs, which has come down to 15-16 lakhs. We are not opposed to development at all. The plant used to have a crushing capacity of 7,000 tonnes. In the meeting, it is informed that the water supply to the villagers is being filtered. It is not done. Then when it will after crushing capacity 15,000 tonne? So where did the filter go when the 7,000-ton factory crushing capacity was there?

We have never opposed the factory administration to set up a unit elsewhere. Earlier, we had given our consent to set up a factory at Kavthe Mahankal, Wategaon. So what is the need for expansion when there is so much pollution? However, instead of expanding here, the factory should be set up elsewhere. We will support it. Many people have complained about pollution. However, our objections should be communicated to the Government.

Project Proponent replied that the state-of-the-art machinery has been installed in the plant and they are recycling the treated wastewater in the production process. No sewage is discharged from the plant. This should be noted.

Work is also underway to modernize the project. Because the project started in 1969-70, the efficiency of many of the machinery was reduced. Also, the pollution level in the project is less than the prescribed standards as specified by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Also, the modernization of the project will be done in the future subject to government regulations. A sewage control plant is available with the factory.

13) Shri Raghunathdada Patil:

Now our workers have again explained how the sewage from the project goes out into the water sources and the river. District Collector Sir, our workers and I are still ready to show you how the sewage from the project goes out into the water sources and the river. We had a big agitation, so the distillery plant was shut down. So if the Project Proponent say that the effluent from the factory is not going out, then do we need to show them too?

There is no spent wash going here as stated by the Project Proponent. We have a water table.

At that time, many people started talking to each other. Some participants said that they have sent a video to Project Proponent of generation of spent wash outside the factory which is entering in the water source. At this time, participants were loudly objecting to each other.

At that time, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to everyone to present their points briefly without discussing among themselves. If someone makes a point, it should not be commented upon. You should raise your point. This has now been ordered by the District Collector-Sangli. This public hearing meeting has been organized to take note of the points of all of you. Everyone's points will be noted. However, one by one, they should make their points briefly. We should not come near the stage. Those who want to raise the suggestion should raise their hands, they will be given a mike.

Shri Raghunathdada Patil said that uproar took place here was because a supporter of the factory remarked that we are traditional opponents. We're not here to create a uproar or shouting. If the expansion proposal is unanimously approved by the chairman and the board of directors of the factory, what will he answer here? Because this meeting is about the environment. So it was necessary not to allow to raise the issue of who gave how much sugarcane. The land in this factory belongs to the Harijan Mandal of Sakhrule. All this land was in my father's name. But my father did not claim it, but said that it belonged to the Harijan community. Activists of the Harijan community gave land for the factory by throwing turbans in the air.

But here in the meeting, some got angry because the project promoters are giving false and misleading information. Because of the increase in sugarcane production, he said that he is expanding the plant. At the same time, the crushing capacity of the factory has decreased. Sugarcane production here has decreased and the proposal presented by the board of directors is completely false. There is a proposal for unnecessary expansion.

Now there is a proposal for expansion of power generation. At a time when solar power is now being produced everywhere, the question has arisen as to why the project promoters are planning to generate electricity by burning the bagasse.

If the bagasse is used for other purposes, it gives a higher price. There are manufacturers of bricks from bagasse. When asked about the price, the Brick Producer said that the current price is ₹ 4,000/-tonne. Some sections of the society will benefit from the production of bricks from bagasse. Also, the country's Hon'ble Prime Minister and all other experts are encouraging solar power generation, what is

the purpose of generating electricity by burning bagasse here? Despite the opposition of all the villagers, it is not right to generate electricity by burning the bagasse. So they are saying that generating electricity here will increase employment. Now employment is created in the factory and it is paid very low wages.

It was pointed out in the presentation that the pollution level at the factory was below the level of prescribed standards as issued by MPCB. The report does not explain why sugarcane production decreases if the soil contains the right components. If they say that the factory has brought prosperity, then why did the people's representatives here formulate the Jayant Poverty Eradication Scheme?

So the villagers of all the villages are opposing expansion of this project. Why do they protest so bitterly, then the agriculture and people here are being affected by the pollution of the factory. However, this expansion proposal should be rejected.

14)Shri Rajendra Jaisingh Patil, Residence- Sakhrale, Taluka- Walwa, District-Sangli:-

The issue of pollution has been raised here. Whenever there is any issue of pollution, the advanced pollution control system has been installed in the project and pollution control work has been done. The stadium is located in the western part of the factory developed by the factory. From four o'clock in the morning to eight in the night, people of all ages, students appearing for UPSC and MPSC examinations do exercises there. If they were suffering from the pollution of the factory, they would not have come there. So when there is a problem of pollution, the factory manager takes remedial measures.

We 15,000-20,000 farmers in the taluka do cultivate sugarcane and other crop. Sugarcane absorbs carbon from the air. So if the factory is suffering from 2% pollution and 80% of the people are benefiting from the factory, then 80% of the people have to be considered. So this project must get permission for expansion.

At this time, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that if the issue has been raised before, the same issue should not be raised again. Also, if one person raises an issue, the other person should not resist it.

15)Shri Atul Avinash Patil, resident of Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

I was born in 1986. Childhood is completely spent in Sakharale village. Since the beginning of the season, we have seen that ashes appear on the terrace of the house. It falls throughout the season. During the season, the air quality index is above 100, while when the factory is closed, it is below 50. In foreign countries, the government falls due to air quality index, but our people do not understand this. Now that the plant is 7,000 tonnes per day, it is better to estimate how much it will be after the expansion. We live next door to the factory. There is a very foul smell of spent wash. It mixes with the Krishna river. I have sent a video of it to Project Proponent. He has not answered.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee instructed all participants to register objections in writing. Officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board will take further action in this regard.

16) Mr. Vishwas Jagannath Patil, Resident-Nerle,

The land in our village is saline and there is less production. However, an initiative has been implemented for saline land through the factory. Farmers will benefit from early crushing of sugarcane, as well as other crops, wheat and other crops. Nerle villagers support the expansion.

17) Mr. Kiran Mohan Mane, resident of Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

My land is in the factory gat no.1152. It is still there. There is no way for us to go there. So we can't do anything. When the first co-generation power plant was built, I had six gunthas of land. But for some reason, I kept some land. Now we have one and a half gunthas of land.

18) Shri Sunil Sachin Suryavanshi:

My house is on the other side. Our relatives live here. Their financial positions not so much good. The bagasse of this factory flows there. On the way, the bagasse goes into the eye. But our complaint has not even been solved. We have shown it to the project authorities many times when molasses was released from the factory.

19) Shri Rajesh Shankar Patil, Residence- Kapuskhed-

There has been development in the area through the factory. Kapuskhed does not suffer from the pollution of the factory. There needs to be expansion. It has the support of our village.

20) Mrs. Sujata Dangale, Sarpanch, Sakhrale Gram Panchayat, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

If this factory is being renovated and expanded, then on behalf of the villagers of Sakhrale, I am fully supporting it.

21) Mrs. Yogita Ramchandra Suryavanshi:-

We are not opposed to the project. But we are two minutes away from the factory. The black, white ash coming from the factory bagasse is a problem. For 6-6 months, our children and old people are not sent out from here. The ash problem should be removed.

22) Mrs. Aarti Shashikant Mane:-

Those who support the project live in the village. We live just 10-15 feet away from the factory. We suffer due to release of bagasse from the factory. We should take note of that.

23) Mrs. Manisha Mane:-

Our house is two minutes away. We suffer a lot due to release of bagasse ash from the factory. We have shown the ash problem to Sarpanch also. Our Children

suffer a lot. Ash falls into food, well water. When guests come to our home, they say that ashes fall in your house as it rains. We are going to have a lot of trouble due to expansion.

Convener of the Meeting opined that their point was understood.

24)Shri Dadasaheb Rajaram Patil:-

I live near the factory. The factory started in 1968. It's been 55 years. I have four acres in the command area of the factory. The effluent released from the factory comes there. I met the factory administration and asked him how much amount would be given to me for last 55 years. Who is responsible for my personal loss? However, I should be compensated. The incoming water should be stopped forever. If that doesn't happen, I won't be afraid to take legal action.

25)Shri Dattatray Patil, Residence-Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

The people of Sakhrale village would have supported the project in the meeting here. Because the weather here is bad due to pollution. However, many people from Sakhrale village live in Ishwarpur (formerly Islampur). Who is in trouble who lives here? The distance between the compound wall of the factory and the village of Sakhrale is ten feet. Factory area expanded and it entered in the village area. People who say there is no factory nuisance here, they should bear it. My colleagues in the meeting have said that the air quality here is 110. This is the situation we live in. Yet you say that this sugar should be tolerated by the villagers. We will not tolerate this every time. The ashes of the bagasse fall in our village. The road here was closed by the factory. Only two-wheelers were stopped to pass. The road to the indoor stadium was closed. The factory is within the limits of our village, we are the villagers here, but we do not go by road. These things need to be considered.

26) Shri Vikas Anandrao Patil, Resident-Sakhrale, Taluka- Walwa, District-Sangli:-

When the season starts, there is so much ash that we suffocate. The middle road is closed. It means we are being punched by pressing our mouths. One has to go to the side of the factory with risk to the life. Why you have planned expansion now? This is the money of the Members, the factory of the members. However, the factory should be operated keeping in mind the interests of each member. 80-90% expansion work is completed. You have called this meeting for permission. This factory is not owned by individuals, but by Members. The profit and loss of the factory is the profit loss of the Members. Therefore, the factory should be operated well.

27)Shri Raghunath Dhondiram Ubale, former Sarpanch Ubalewadi, District-Sangli:-

Expansion of the project is necessary with time. Because every farmer wants his sugarcane to be crushed as soon as possible. The sugarcane crushing of the neighboring factory have increased in MT. Therefore, the sugarcane of this factory goes to the neighboring factory, which affects the sugar crushing of this factory. However, it is necessary to run all the pollution systems efficiently and control pollution and We, Ubalwadi villagers support the expansion of the factory.

28) Shri Prakash Mahadev Wategaonkar, Former Sarpanch, Borgaon, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli

Our Borgaon has a large area of irrigated farming and about 90% of the area is covered for production/cultivation of sugarcane crop. Therefore, the sugarcane of the farmers does not get crushed immediately. So it takes time for us to get another crop. Therefore, our village supports the expansion of the project.

Convener of the meeting said that after discussions with the Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, everyone is advised to avoid repetition of the issues that have been raised. If there are new issues, they should be raised.

29) Shri Prakash Rajaram Patil, Residence- Sakhrale, Taluka- Walwa, District-Sangli:-

In 1969, efforts were made to build the factory and later the factory was built. Sugarcane crushing capacity was expanded from time to time. The sugar factory created employment for the locals here. Walwa taluka was developed all-round. However, don't do it because you want to protest. The factory should also control pollution properly. Support for project expansion.

30) Shri Ashok Patil, Social Worker, Residence - Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District- Sangli:

The issue for which this public hearing was held is going sideways. Also, many locals and villagers were of the opinion that the sugarcane crop of the farmers should be crushed on time. There is no reason to disagree. But we have to see what the village of Sakhrale has suffered. However, a good portion of the land in this village has come under the control of the factory and a particular community. And in the land which is black and alkaline, the spent wash from the factory goes there. It should be inspected and further action should be taken. Objections were raised in the meeting that the expansion work was completed upto 80-90.%. So it should be inspected. Along with development, the health and life of the villagers here is important. The time has come to reduce the life expectancy of children and senior citizens of Sakhrale village. This should also be considered.

31) Shri Raghunagth Patil:-

I want to make two points. Many people in the meeting here said that sugarcane crushing should be done soon. So consider how many months this factory was operating. Earlier, the factory used to run for 6-6 months. This year, the factory ran for only three months, and what was the point of crushing quickly? Within three months, the factory was shutting down. Then, when the factory is closed, the workers' salaries and other indirect expenses (overheads) Someone to suffer? So the one who grows sugarcane has to pay. For the last seventeen years, Rs. 3,000/- has remained at Rs. 3,000/-.

Now, what's behind a ton of sugarcane? If there is a recovery of 12% for one tonne of sugarcane, then 120 kg of sugar is obtained. Three hundred kilograms of bagasse are extracted, 40 kilograms of molasses are obtained – from which alcohol is made in the distillery plant. Ten kilograms of pressmud. All this comes to 500 kilos.

One tonne is transported here and the product that is produced from it is 500 kg of water. The process of steaming it and burning it takes place here. What they do is that the cost of cutting and transporting sugarcane is deducted from our FRP and the price of sugarcane is paid. That is, we farmers bear the cost of transportation. The cost of transportation should be borne by the factory. But that doesn't happen.

So today these factories are charging ₹ 900, 1000, 1100 per tonne for transportation. So why should we bear it? This is an economically wrong precedent. This benefits only the sugar mills. However, we should pay attention to this.

32) Shri Nanasaheb Balwant, Resident-Borgaon, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

There was a question about air pollution. But nobody did not ask what the measures were taken by project officials. However, if the measures related to air pollution and water pollution are appropriate, then the villagers of Borgaon support the expansion of the project.

Environment Advisor said that the project has a state-of-the-art air pollution control system called ESP-Electro-Static Precipitator with four fields. A similar system will be installed in the boiler in the proposed project. This will prevent all dust particles.

The project will also include an Industrial Wastewater Control System (ETP) as well as a CPU (Condensate Polishing Unit) in the proposed expansion project.

33) Sunil Rangrao Patil, Residence- Sakhrle, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli

Many, people have registered the same suggestions, thoughts, objections. I don't talk much about it. I am demanding that the proposed sugarcane crushing capacity of Rajarambapu Patil Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited should be expanded from 7,000.0 MT per day to 15,000.0 MT per day and co-generation from 28.0 MW to 68.0 MW plant. Support for the project.

34) Shri Sanjay Dada Patil, Residence-Ishwarpur, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

The factory will be run on a co-operative basis. All members will benefit from the expansion. Therefore, the crushing of sugarcane by the farmers will be done soon. Therefore, expansion is the need of the hour. The people of Ishwarpur have given their land for this project. Support for project expansion.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee urged participants not to raise the same issues. He also called for a brief statement of the issues.

35) Shri Ashok Sitaram Khot, resident of Ishwarpur, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:

There was a shortage of water in Ishwarpur area before 1992. Some schemes were implemented through the factory. As a result, the Ishwarpur area has been developed. I have three wells of my own. Those wells were producing 30 guntas of sugarcane. Now the production of sugarcane through the factory has increased to 100 tonnes. Many farmers in this area have received awards. This year, I "Krishi Bhushan" The award has been received.

At this time, Convener of the Meeting suggested to make a brief point.

Shri Ashok Sitaram Khot said that a few years ago, Ishwarpur was also suffering due to bagasse ash of this factory. However, the factory reduced the ash by commissioning a new system. As a result, the amount of ash has been reduced to a great extent.

36) Shri Jaisingh Krishna Patil, Resident-Sakhrle, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

Is this one factory polluting the factories in the area from Koyna Dam to Almatti Dam? Corporation should also consider. So what did the members here do? Rules should be applied to everyone. I think positively.

Support for the proposed expansion of this factory.

37) Shri Uddhav Shankarrao Patil, Residence - Tujarpur, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

My village is 5-7 km from here. There is no social development plant from this factory. The sugarcane from there goes to the outside factory for crushing. For this, the area of the factory should be increased. Next to our village is Sakharwadi village. There's a factory plan. In our village, the entire belt is a saline belt. The work of cultivating the fields is being done through the factory by making the barren farming factory here. All the advantages and disadvantages of co-operation should be seen. The Rajrambapu factory has a reputation in Maharashtra and it is requested that justice should be given to the factory.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the attendees to say at the outset that since this public hearing is related to the environment, only environmental suggestions, thoughts, comments or objections should be raised about the proposed project.

38) Shri Hanmant Nivrutti Jadhav, former Gram Panchayat member, resident of Ubalwadi, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

The discussions has been going on for the last 2-3 hours. So I urge you to think about the pros and cons. There is pollution in our homes too. We tolerate that. It should be seen how many people affected due to pollution and how many are the beneficiaries of the project. If the taluka is going to benefit, then it should be considered.

39) Shri Akash Baburao Patole, resident of Sakhrle, Taluka- Walwa, District-Sangli:-

At a distance of 500 meters from this factory, we have a colony of Matang and Buddhist communities. Our society is suffering the most due to this pollution. The issues raised by the lawyer are all related to our health. This should be taken into consideration.

40) Mr Shashikant Bhimrao Mane resident of Sakhrle, Taluka- Walwa, District-Sangli:-

As far as land is concerned, 52 acres of land has been given to the factory by our community. I humbly admit that our village has developed. We have sent a developing leadership to the assembly. We are proud of him. That's what I'm saying in a public hearing on the environment. Recently, the project promoter said most advance technology. I've been hearing these words for the last four years. Our sarpanch madam, a sarpanch said, "Development has taken place. Sure, it's 100 percent developed, but I just want to say that we don't want to be made scape goat. We live here in gat number 1152. Many said to bear a little. We're here to die, so do what you want to hear him.

41) Shri Vijay Balwant Patil, Project Proponent:-

I'm the Vice President of the factory. The public hearing on the environment has been held to expand the sugarcane crushing capacity of our factory from 7,000.0 tonnes per day to 15,000.0 tonnes per day and co-generation from 28 MW to 68 MW.

Some local participants in the meeting have wrongly objected that the factory has started the expansion work of the project without permission and 80% of the work has been completed. The project officials have repeatedly clarified in the meeting that modernisation work is underway at the factory. The factory was commissioned in 1969-70. The machinery was outdated. It had to be changed. That work is going on. We are expected to look at this business with modernity. Modern technology needs to be accepted here.

Some residents of Sakhrule village have complained about bagasse. Some have submitted suggestions and objections in writing. They are welcome and we will definitely pay attention to them so that they do not face any problem. For this, while modernizing the project, if necessary, some new systems will be implemented. This is the era of competition. General Member here is the "Producer-Owner". So it is very important for the owner's sugarcane to be crushed on time. Earlier, we had crushed 22 lakh tonnes through four units of this factory. Last year, there was less crushing. That is, we have created boundaries in the taluka of sugarcane grown by us. The sugarcane went there. If the common farmer gives it to other places, so that he can take another crop, then if we expand the crushing capacity of our factory, then we will be able to crush the sugarcane crop that has gone elsewhere. Therefore, a crushing capacity of 15,000 tonnes per day is planned. Let us increase the productivity of our factory. Project Proponents are trying to get four paise more to benefit their farmers. However, everyone should support this positive plan.

Also, some of the participants mentioned that there are fish killing incidences due to spent wash discharge of this factory. If fish die in Karad, then it should be considered whether the water of Rajaram Bapu goes to Karad. However, it is requested that the proposed project expansion proposal be approved.

Convener of the Meeting suggested that only issues related to the environment should be spoken here.

42) Shri Manik Anantrao Patil, R/o Borgaon, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

The factory was started in 1968. It has been 55-58 years since the factory started. So what is the reason for the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to hold this public hearing on the environment today? So why do so many people complain about this project? District Collector should take note of this issue. The fish killing incidence occurred 2-3 months ago. The fine should be recovered from the officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The day before yesterday, girls died after being bitten by a snake in a school in a tribal area. I request Hon'ble District Collector to take strict action in this regard.

Convener requested the attendees not to make the same points, so new people are not able to raise the issues.

43) Shri Atul Avinash Patil, Resident - Sakhrale, Taluka-Walwa, District-Sangli:-

White smoke comes after burning of the spent wash. There's a lot of trouble due to the smoke. If that smoke comes to the village, it becomes difficult to breathe there. The smoke comes down to the village as it is in the direction of the wind. It was difficult to breathe. The smoke should be checked.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed to the attendees to register any environmental suggestions, if any, about the proposed project. There was no response from the participants. Convener thanked all the participants for their co-operation for conducting the meeting peacefully and requested Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee to say the concluding words.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed participants that as per the Government of India's Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, it is mandatory for certain industries to conduct prior Environment public consultation when a project is being re-established or expanded. District Collector and District Magistrate is only a Presiding Officer here. The suggestions and objections raised by you have been noted. All the directives as issued in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification have been followed in the meeting and the written suggestions / objections filed in the meeting and also by email will be answered in writing only by the Project Proponent and it will also be submitted to the Government along with the minutes of the meeting. Also, if some people are not able to submit a written statement, they should send the email to the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board by 6.00 pm today, i.e. on August 14, 2026. All those documents will be submitted to the government. Thank you all for helping to conduct this public hearing

peacefully. He informed Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee to complete further procedure. .

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all those present for the peaceful conduct of the public hearing and on behalf of the Hon'ble Chairman declare that Environment Public Hearing is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

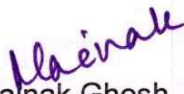
All criticisms and comments received before, during, and after the public hearing, along with the written submissions made by the project proponents and their photocopies, are attached herewith.



(Pramod Mane)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Sangli
(Additional charge)



(Nikhil Gharat)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur



(Dr. Malnak Ghosh, IAS)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
District Magistrate, Sangli,
District – Sangli