

## ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING - PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Environment Public Hearing held on 22-08-2014 at 11-30 A.M of M/s.Athani Sugars Ltd., [Formerly M/s.Athani Sugar Works Ltd], Kempwad Village, Athani Taluk, Belgaum District for the Expansion of Project of their existing Industry for increasing the capacity of (1)Sugar Plant from 4,500 TCD to 12,000 TCD, (2)Distillery Plant from 60 KLPD to 90 KLPD and (3)Co-gen power Plant from 24 MW to 54 MW.

### Details of the officials present during public hearing :

- 1) Shri.N.Jayaram, Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Belgaum.
- 2) Shri.C.M.Satish, Regional Senior Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Dharwad.
- 3) Shri.K.P.Parmeshwarappa, Joint Director, District Industries Center, Belgaum.
- 4) Smt.Rajashri.J.Kulli, Regional Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Belgaum-2 (Chikkodi Center).

Proceedings of Environment Public Hearing held in the premises of the existing industry of M/s. Athani Sugars Ltd., under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum, for their Proposed Expansion Project of their existing Industry for increase in the capacity of (1)Sugar Plant from 4,500 TCD to 12,000 TCD, (2)Distillery Plant from 60 KLPD to 90 KLPD and (3)Co-gen power Plant from 24 MW to 54 MW at Kempwad Village, Athani Taluk, Belgaum District, Karnataka State.

Place of Public Hearing held	: Premises of existing Industry of M/s.Athani Sugars Ltd., [Formerly M/s.Athani Sugar Works Ltd], of Kempwad Village, Athani Taluk, Belgaum District, Karnataka State.
Details of Paper notification	: Annexure - 1 (a, b & c)
Details of Public attended	: Annexure - 2
Details of Officials attended	: Annexure - 3
Details of Representatives of industry attended	: Annexure - 4
Details of Proposed Expansion Activity	: Annexure - 5
Photographs	: Annexure - 6
Video CD	: Annexure - 7

### Preamble :

As per the Environment Impact Assessment, Notification dated.14-09-2006 and its amendment dated.01-12-2009, the Proposed Expansion Project of their existing Industry for the increase in capacity of (1)Sugar Plant from 4,500 TCD to 12,000 TCD, (2)Distillery Plant from 60 KLPD to 90 KLPD and (3)Co-gen power Plant from 24 MW to 54 MW. - has to obtain Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Ministry of Environment and Forest department, Government of India and has to conduct Environmental Public Hearing also. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board is conducting the Environmental Public Hearing as per the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India letter dated.30-04-2014 and also as per the request made by the existing industry authorities of the said proposed expansion project in their letter dated.12-06-2014.

Shri.N.Jayaram, Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum took over as Chairman of the said Environment Public Hearing Committee and welcomed all the people gathered. They have told you about why this hearing is called. Specifically to tell you what is this factory, increase the sugar-cane crushing capacity, then increase the distillery capacity and then also increase the co-generation capacity. Keeping all these three issues, today the industry people have given proposal to update it. Prior to give permission you we have to collect the opinion of the surrounding people and people living here. Are there any problems to you from this, they have studied the possible adverse effects on environment. We have to collect opinion from you people also, for this purpose we have called this meeting. Mainly how they discharge the waste water, do you have any problems from this. Already factory is there. After increasing the capacity how much waste water may come and what may be the problems all have to be thought and expressed. Along with this noise pollution and water pollution and air pollution. Prior to this are there any other problems for the surrounding people living here, that you have to tell your views. They consider your views and conduct a study from expert and they will give presentation. What benefits you are having from the factory and what will be the problems that may arise after expansion, both they will explain to you. After hearing that you can tell your views, suggestions, objections without any fear. If you give a complaint here don't be in fear that factory people will not purchase your sugar-cane. Here you can express your views independently freely without any fear. Because permanently this factory is efficiently crushing sugar-cane, producing distillery, cogeneration – is this type of proposal. Hence you all are having opportunity to express your opinion freely. Before that - factory people will give presentation and they will everything about what they are doing, what are the adverse effects from this and what benefits they will get. After hearing this you can express your opinion. From industry side give the presentation.

**Detailed Report of Expansion Project of M/s. Athani Sugars Ltd., delivered by Shri.Padmaraj.Pai, Environment Engineer :**

Details of the officials of the proposed project of M/s.Athani Sugars Ltd. industry present during public hearing is enclosed as Annexure-4. As per the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner, one of the official of M/s.Athani Sugars Ltd. industry Shri.Padmaraj.Pai, Environment Engineer presented the details of the said proposed expansion activity by power point presentation. The details of the power point presentation is enclosed as Annexure-5.

**Shri.Padmaraj.Pai., Environment Engineer -** I welcome all. Relating to this meeting I wish to keep detailed industry's report in front of you.

Effects of sound on environment –

The sound generated from steam turbine, boiler and DG-sets is about 70-90 dBA or more. This will have impact on people. If we hear continuously it may affect the ears of public. To avoid this, we are providing ear plugs also.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Above mentioned all equipments, when sound is generated to reduce this have you taken any measures. Tell in details.

**Shri.Padmaraj.Pai., Environment Engineer -**

- 1)We are providing accoustic measures and sound proof to all equipments.
- 2)We have done sound proof to the existing DG-sets. Means provided accoustic measures.
- 3)And for the people working near boilers we provide ear plugs – equipments to close ears.

Power point presentation continued.

Lubricants will be put to the sound generating equipments. For machines oil will be put time to time so that sound won't come.

Power point presentation continued.

Social and economic effects :

- 1) We have taken up 16 irrigation projects in the industry surrounding villages like Kempwad, Madbhavi, Tevaretti, Jambgi, Sambargi, Kaluti, Parthanhalli, Gundewadi, Aralikatti, Tavag, Jakaratti, Radderhatti and Mole. Under this 3000 acres of area is made irrigated at a total cost of rupees 40 crores.
- 2) We have opened a new school in our industry's colony premises at a cost of rupees 15 lakhs. It will be useful to improve the lifestyle.
- 3) We have provided water facility to cattle of draught affected villages at a cost of rupees 25 lakh in 2013.
- 4) We are giving suitable employment opportunities to all.

**Deputy Commissioner :** How much will be the employment generation.

**Shri. Padmaraj. Pal., Environment Engineer -** Existing are 800 workers and increased to 300 new workers.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Why it will be not be double?

Power point presentation continued.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Give the details of your 16 irrigation projects?

Power point presentation continued.

**Deputy Commissioner :** What is the water requirement for 42 acres green built as mentioned by you?

**Shri. Yogesh. Patil., Managing Director :** We have done 16 irrigation schemes and the expenditure is paid by the industry.

**Shri. Uttam. Patil., Director :** Already we have done irrigation. Fully completely we have made drip, we have provided pipe line from river to all from industry side.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Average rain fall is 822 mm.

**Shri. Padmaraj. Pal., Environment Engineer -** Since it is a dry area we don't receive much rains.

Power point presentation continued.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Government is giving 90% subsidy.

**Shri. Uttam. Patil., Director :** Only for drip, but also we have sent proposal, but has not come.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Why you tell that you have done, although government has done.

**Shri. Uttam. Patil., Director :** We have done by spending our own. But also subsidy amount is not remitted. We have given the subsidy applications signed by everybody, but also not received subsidy from government.

**Deputy Commissioner :** That is not your project. It is a government project. You have not done it. So you don't include this. That is not your's - government project. It is not done by you. It will come back to you, ok.

**Shri.Yogesh.Patil., Managing Director :** As farmers are unable to pay the minimum fees, from the factory side we are paying this amount to the farmers.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Have you paid 10% only.

**Shri.Yogesh.Patil., Managing Director :** All the expenditure made for drip is paid by industry. Have not taken any application and not taken any amount from farmers.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Now industry has made, but if government gives subsidy will you not take it. It is not your project it is a government of Karnataka project. It is a government of India project. Apart from that if you are doing anything then you can please tell. Otherwise continue it.  
Power point presentation continued.

**Farmers :** Sir, subsidy will not come. All types of trials we have made, but no use.  
Power point presentation continued.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Hospital is only for employees and not for public. You are doing this because it is your duty. Hence you cannot write this.  
Power point presentation continued.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Go back. There is no CSR in this.

1. Firstly, minor irrigation – that is not yours.

2. Ok, yours.

3. Ok.

4. That is not yours. It is your duty.

5. In Murgundi village you have constructed check dam for drinking water. In the middle – river water conservation scheme done at Murgundi village.

**Deputy Commissioner :** How much you have to spend for CSR.

**Shri.Yogesh.Patil., Managing Director :** Even though we don't come under CSR but also we are spending from the little profit we earn from factory.

**Deputy Commissioner :** What is the industry's profit for the last year.

**Shri.Yogesh.Patil., Managing Director :** About 8 to 9 crores.

**Deputy Commissioner :** According to CSR how much you should spend from profit.

**Shri.Yogesh.Patil., Managing Director :** Less than 2%.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Last year you have paid 2100 rupees. This time you have to pay 2500 rupees, but you have not paid. You are claiming that you are paying more.

Power point presentation continued.

**Deputy Commissioner :** You are claiming the government's work as yours. You should increase the CSR activities and factory people agreed for it.

The power point presentation continued and then completed.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Many people have come here. While coming many subjects about this you know. Hence all people have come here. Come one by one and introduce yourself and express your

opinion and objections about the presentation what they gave. Tell about the objections first afterwards you can tell about the advantages.

**All public :** You have asked to tell about objections, but there is no question of objections.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Nobody is there to tell the objections.

**All public :** Nobody is there.

In between a public said : After this industry came, our lifes have improved a lot. Going to Maharashtra for work has stopped.

**Public gave the following opinion :**

**1)Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali., farmer, Kempwad village :**

My farm is about one kilometer away from sugar factory. I have also born in a farmer family. Firstly I want to ask one word and apologize to deputy commissioner to forgive me if I speak any wrong things during my speech here. You may have seen the Athani-Kagwad road before this industry coming. The south side of Athani and Kagwad road was river bank and hence fertile. And North side it was always drought. In 1970 there was severe drought in Athani taluka.

**Deputy Commissioner :** You speak only about the presentation they gave. This can be spoken afterwards.

**Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali. :** Earlier we had drinking water problem and employment problems. But today in our villages everybody is travelling by motorcycles or by car. The reason for this is our Shrimant tatya (Shri.Shrimant.Patil, Industry's Chairman and Managing Director)

**Deputy Commissioner :** You all will take car after this meeting.

**Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali. :** His exclusive character is – when came for purchasing the lands for this factory nobody gave their lands. That time we provided the required land hoping that this area will be developed after establishing this factory. In these lands instead of establishing the industry he dug pits and planted trees, all mango trees.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Speak about environment only.

**Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali. :** Yes Sir, they planted mango trees so that there should not be environment problem and people should be healthy. They have planted many trees surrounding the farms which we had given. The mango trees were planted to mitigate the damage caused due to generation of wastes from industry to anyone. The waste generated from this industry by crushing sugar-cane of 4500 tonnes is made into good composte manure and given to farmers. From this industry there is no smell of any kind and no sound pollution. Because my house is at a distance of one kilometer from this industry. They have given good training to the industry labours. Hence till today In the history of factory no accidents have occurred.

Industry has helped by providing drip system for our 3000 acres farm lands. In this my 2.5 acres land also covered. I have not spent any money for this till today. You mentioned that the government is giving subsidy amount to drip system, that I accept. Today all farmers are gathered here, if anybody

comes to you for subsidy you will take all amount and afterwards you tell that we will give the subsidy amount when it comes, otherwise we cannot pay. We are asking what we should do for this.

**Deputy Commissioner :** In their power point presentation, industry have told that they have provided drip system for all farmers present here. It is like this, then why the government should give subsidy. When farmers are doing drip system themselves then why government should make subsidy. I am not telling that you should not take subsidy, you take subsidy. But all industries should spend some amount for public from their profit. They should not keep all the profit for themselves. They have told that they have provided drip system for everyone from this amount. When they have provided all the arrangements then why you try for the subsidy amount.

**Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali. :** The factory has asked permission to increase the sugar plant capacity from 4,500 TCD to 12,000 TCD. I think you should give permission to increase the capacity to 20,000 TCD and not 12,000 TCD.

**Deputy Commissioner :** They have not asked.

**Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali. :** You have to give permission.

**Deputy Commissioner :** We will give let them ask.

**Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali. :** We will ask.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Factory people have not asked.

**Shri.Vijay.Baburao.Wali. :** You have to give permission. Because the problem is that all industries don't take our sugar-cane, they come and disturb us and will not purchase the sugar-cane. Only Shrimanth.Patil. will purchase.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Ok, all farmers and all farmers gathered here again and again you are expressing, it is good. Any other person wants to speak.

### **2)Shri. Ramu.Nana.Bhagat., Chairman, Gram panchayat, Lokur :**

This sugar-cane you have to do. Because if we tell - industry won't do. You will give for sugar-cane hence I am telling you, because you government will give. And the industry has come forward to do hence you give co-operation to them. We are living like this. Now they told they travel by motorcycle and car, I have not come by taking motorcycle, I have come by walk. But also you do what you want. I finish my two words.

### **3)Shri.Ramesh.Basappa.Teli., Member, Gram Panchayat, Kempwad village :**

I am having 25 acres of land which is just 500 feet from factory. I don't have not even one acre of irrigated land. Initially Shrimanth.Patil. converted 200 acres into irrigated lands, here my 25 acres were also taken. Water was somewhere far. After establishing this industry we are benefitted by this. Because no other industry had purchased the sugar-cane which I had grown. Reason is due to my sugar-cane recovery is less. But also this Kempwad factory people have purchased my sugar-cane. Ugar factory have not taken this sugar-cane. But Kempwad factory will take. Once the Kempwad factory starts we stop sending to Ugar. Now they are also taking our low recovery sugar-cane quietly. I am more benefitted by this factory. Hence for increase in the industry's production capacity I give my wholeheartedly consent today, see Sir. Because on both sides there are farmers. Recently you

government have made canal. Grow more sugar-cane, plant sugar-cane. We all farmers will grow sugar-cane. It will be good to us by sugar-cane crushing.

**4)Shri.Prakash.Hullooli., farmer, Mole village :**

I am a common farmer. I want to tell about the benefits from this industry to this area people. Other industries will purchase only the sugar-cane having 12% or more sugar content. What a poor farmer should do when it is like this. Poor farmers grow sugar-cane with great difficulty although there is no drinking water for people and cattle. Afterwards other factories won't purchase the sugar-cane telling that sugar content is less. During this period a situation comes to the farmer to commit suicide. During this period this industry has purchased the poor farmers low content sugar-cane thereby benefiting farmers of this area. During this period factory incurred a loss of three crores for the sake of poor farmers. Before starting of this industry-sugar-cane after growth of two years also nobody used to purchase. After starting of this industry only they are purchasing sugar-cane right time. Any government have not made facility of drinking water to the people of this area. But this industry have made the water facility.

**Deputy Commissioner :** Whatever you speak, you speak only about the environment.

**Shri.Prakash.Hullooli. :** Yes Sir, environment department's our board chairman had come, environment madam had come. There was no smoke in the factory chimneys. 15 kilometers away thick smoke was coming, we could see, this was from different factory. At that time after verification the environment department people had praised the factory people. Afterwards environment friendly Shri.Siddeshwar.Swamiji visited the industry. After seeing the development in this area he expressed good opinion about this industry. They give weighing certificate. The financial condition of the farmers has improved. This area is developed due to this factory. So considering all these facts, permission to increase the production capacity may be given.

**5)Shri.Mallappa.Kenchappa.Chung., farmer, Kempwad village. :**

Spoke in Marathi language. This is translated into Kannada.

People of this area (from children to old persons) are comfortably leading their life due to this factory. Good atmosphere is created to the school going children. Factory owner is paying amount from his own pocket for patients. This factory is providing all types of co-operation, because we don't bring politics in this. I am in this factory and I am in politics since 1964. No government can do this. We have full devotion on this factory, you also keep devotion on farmers. Do our work.

**6)Shri.Sanjay.Rajaram.Parakatte, ZP Member, Ugarkhurud village. :**

By increasing the capacity of this industry we will get more job opportunities. Due to this not only this area people, but other area people will also be benefitted. That is why I request to give the permission to this factory. People from Ugar come here to work in this factory.

**Deputy Commissioner :** The factory authority have explained about their project. You all have expressed good opinion about the factory and you have expressed that by increasing the capacity you will get more benefits. What all you have expressed, will be compiled and sent.

Asked factory people that - you have mentioned that you are using Krishna river water. If there is no water in the river, then what alternative arrangements you have made. How will you run the factory.

**Shri.Yogesh.Patil., Managing Director :** We will use the completely treated water back in the factory. For installing the new co-generation plant, water usage is considerably reduced because we are providing air condenser new technology.

**Shri.N.Jayaram, Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum and Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee :**

Today we have discussed about all the issues. All these issues will be compiled and sent to Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Thank You.

**Environmental Public Hearing concludes.**

  
[N.Jayaram]  
Deputy Commissioner,  
Belgaum.

**Enclosed :** 1) Proceedings.  
2) 75 Photos.  
3) Video CD.  
4) Extra.