

Proceeding of the Public Hearing of M/s. Shree Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhongal Taluk Belagavi District, Karnataka State, to establish 45 KLPD, B & C heavy Molasses/ Sugarcane syrup based distillery unit within the existing premises of Sugar and Co-generation plant at Sy No. 293, 294, 298, 301, 306 in area of 62.82 Acres at Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhongal Taluk Belagavi District. In this regard Public Hearing is conducted on 12-07-2022 at 11.00 AM at industrial premises, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhongal Taluk Belagavi District.

Date : 12-07-2022.

Time : 11.00 AM

M/s. Shree Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post, Bailhongal Taluk, Belagavi District.

M/s. Shree Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhongal Taluk Belagavi District, Karnataka State, has proposed to establish 45 KLPD, B & C heavy Molasses/ Sugarcane syrup based distillery unit within the existing premises of sugar and Co-generatin plant. In this regard Public Hearing was conducted on 12-07-2022 at 11.00 AM. The Proceedings of the public hearing is as under:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name & Address of the Proposed Industry | M/s. Shree Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyami, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhonga Taluk Belagavi District. |
| Name of the Officers Present | Annexure - 1 |
| Representatives of the Proposed Industry Present | Annexure - 2 |
| Details of Public Participated | Annexure - 3 |
| Details of publication arranged in the News Papers for public hearing | Annexure - 4 |
| Written views submitted by the public | Annexure - 5 |
| Power Point Presentation made in the Public hearing | Annexure - 6 |

As per the Notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India on 14.09.2006 and its subsequent amendment, it is a pre requisite for such project to conduct Environment public hearing prior to award of Environment Clearance Certificate. Accordingly SEIAA has finalized the standards terms of Reference of the said project vide letter dated: 07-10-2021 and informed M/s. Shree Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhongal Taluk Belagavi District to request KSPCB to conduct Environment public hearing. The project proponent vide letter Dated 02-

03-2022 (Board office Inward Dated: 05-03-2022) requested KSPCB to conduct public hearing. Hence the Environment Public Hearing is conducted at the existing premises of the industry by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Belagavi dist. Belagavi.

The project proponent has submitted the detailed EIA report and Executive Summary in Kannada and English to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, the Karnataka State Pollution control Board gave the Press Notification 30 days in an advance. The advertisement to this effect was published in "Deccan Herald" English daily news paper and Kannada daily news paper "Vijay Vani" dated: 11-06-2022 and Local news paper "Vijay Vani" news paper dated: 14-06-2022. The suggestions/ views, comments and objections from the interested bona fide residents, environmental groups and others located at the project site likely to be affected by the proposed project were invited and project affected people could send their views either orally or in written or through email to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Deputy commissioner, Belagavi, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee.

The Environment public hearing was held on 12-07-2022 under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Belagavi District, Belagavi.

Sri Jagadeesh I H, Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Belgaum-1 extended warm welcome to Sri Nitesh K. Patil, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Belagavi, Sri Rajshekhar Puranik, ZSEO, Dharwad, Asst. Commissioner, Tahasildar Bailhongal and he has also extended the welcome to all officials of the different Departments, representatives of the project, all surrounding villagers, public, media and environmentalists. He briefly explained the need of Environmental clearance and Environmental Public Hearing as per EIA Notification and explained the procedure of the Public hearing and about the project documents kept for the Public Hearing at nine different offices.

The Environmental Officer requested to the Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Belagavi and also the Presiding officer of the Environment Public Hearing to start the proceedings. Later instructed the industry representative and their consultants to make the presentation about the proposed project of M/s. Shree Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhongal Taluk Belagavi District to the public.

Industry representative and Environment Consultant of M/s Eqinox Environments (I) Pvt. Ltd, Kolhapur for the project explained the environmental impacts and mitigation measures recommended for the proposed project of M/s. Shree Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, Sidda Samudra village, Belawadi Post Bailhongal Taluk Belagavi District. The copy of the power point presentation is enclosed with the proceedings vide **Annexure-6**.

To the explanation asked by Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Belagavi, Shri M. D. Mallur, Managing Director, Someshwar Shakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, replied that, we will appoint the experienced and unskilled youngsters in this unit as employees. Also we have established the Sugar Mill here before and already we have obtained permission from Central Government for establishment of 45 K.L.P.D.

ethanol unit. Therefore our management committee has decided to give jobs to local people.

Respected Deputy Commissioner: You have mentioned that it is purchased from Revenue Department in the year 1997? Whether it is purchased or is it granted as aid? Is this a Government land or the farmer's land? Let the known persons explain the same.

In reply, Shri M. D. Mallur, Managing director, Someshwar S.S.K. expressed that cow grazing land has been purchased from the Government. The total land of 108-Acre 8-Guntas is purchased for Rs.16000/-.

Respected Deputy Commissioner: So submit the documents of the same.

Shri M. D. Mallur, Managing Director, Someshwar S.S.K. expressed that about 16 years ago this sugar factory has been established by the Late Ramesh Balekundri, former MLA in this area. Now 16 seasons have completed and forthcoming season is 17th one. The Government has invested 15 Crore of share money and 30 Crore rupees share is collected from the farmers. Mainly the cooperative business of sugar mill is for the development of the farmers. The Central Government has brought new ethanol policy, by adopting it the sugar mills can crush more sugarcane and it will enable us to produce different kinds of products. In view of this, ethanol project has been proposed and we have also got approval from the Central Government for 45 K.L.P.D. Ethanol unit. We are eligible to receive 57 Crore rupees. It is at the stage of approval from the state Apex Bank. The bank will not sanction money till we obtain certificate from the State Pollution Control Board. Therefore we have decided to obtain certificate from State Pollution Control Board and then to start the work. 2500 TCD sugar mill is very small industry in this part of the area. By the farmer members, by the Management Board and from Government, appointed me as a Managing Director (In-charge) and I am working here.

We have paid Rs.2500/- per MT to the farmers towards sugarcane bills during the last season and there are no pending bills. If we want to pay more money to the farmers, to help them, this proposed ethanol unit needs to be established and will bring more help to the farmers. Or else it will not be possible to run the sugar mill in forthcoming days. Because to produce sugar, the cost also varies at different stages throughout the world. Due to the sugar production the costs are also increasing and the ethanol units promoted by Central Government is really very good. After establishment of this project, the monetary support will be given to the farmers and for growing of sugarcane and for other activities. We from our sugar factory management and after getting the suggestions from Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, have organized many programs. We have conducted many programs regarding the issue of health Insurance to our workers and their children. If more social activities are required to be conducted, then establishment of this ethanol unit is very much

essential. For this the respected Deputy Commissioner should recommend, for the development of this region. If the cooperative sector is developed with the help of the Government, then it is easy to do more works in this region. Because said sugar factory is established with the cooperation of the farmers and the Government.

Respected Deputy Commissioner: In this also you have shown 1.50 Crore towards C.S.R..This should not be only on paper. That 1.50 crore rupees entirely to be used for the health and education. What you have done with the CSR fund during last five years? Informed to furnish the details.

Respected Deputy Commissioner told that if any environmentalist wants to express their opinion, they can come near to the stage. But informed that the public except Directors and Share holders of the industry can express their views.

The views expressed by the public are as follows:

1] Prakash Appanna hampi, Belavadi village: I am one of the share holder and my share No. is 160. I convey my regards to the Deputy Commissioner, Environment Officer and Assistant Commissioner. Belagavi Dist. has huge number of factories. The elders have established this factory for the development of the cooperative sector. It is my humble request to the officers that the permission shall be given soon. Because today the private factories have fixed 100 to 200 rupees more price per ton of sugarcane, in such situation it may be difficult to get the sugarcane to our cooperative sugar factory. This factory is built by our elders by their hard work. By establishment of the distillery, it will benefit the public of this region. Also the Managing Director have told that they give preference to the surrounding villagers in employment. Therefore by the establishment of this distillery unit our region's development, farmer's development and unemployment problems may be solved. Please give permission for this, I hereby request on behalf of all the farmers to grant permission in view of the welfare of the farmers.

2] Shri Anand Wali, Advocate, Bailhongal: I am not a share holder. I came to know this meeting is to give permission to the distillery unit. This industry development is really good. If this factory wants to gain profit, then Ethanol unit only can bring profits. There are several factories, won't pay bills properly to the farmers. They say prices are down in the international markets. Therefore this Ethanol unit will be very supportive to gain profits. The environment around here is very good. There are no villages around 1.5 kms radius. Therefore there will be no environment pollution. Now the factory people have shown green belt developed here, they said in future also they will develop the same. Therefore by the establishment of the ethanol unit here, there won't be any environment pollution and this is my opinion.

3] Shri Suresh Sampagaon, Hittanagi village: On behalf of farmers of Saundatti Taluka, I request that, there are several factories in our state. The poor farmer's factory means our Someshwar factory in Cooperative sector. Since 15 years the

elders, our farmer's leaders, by efforts have saved this factory. At present other cooperative industries condition is known to all of us. That too in this competitive period even after having competition with the other private factories, even though there is delay in the bills and we have tried to save this industry. Earlier our elders have tried to establish this unit, to give more price to the farmers so that this region farmers will be benefited and development will takes place. This is good work and we welcome this. Accordingly if the sub-unit is established, our poor farmer, children will get employment. By this indirect employment will also created. Good price will be given by our factory. Therefore we humbly request you to grant permission for this unit.

4] Shri Mallikarjun Halagi, Bailhongal: By the establishment of Ethanol unit, it helps the unemployed people. There won't be any harm to the environment. We have lot of unemployed youths, educated people. The factory is being run by management body smoothly, no bills are pending. Managed very smoothly. People also will be benefited. Therefore I request to please verify and give the permission to establish this unit.

5] Shri Shrishail Mugappa Gulappanavar, Udakeri village: I request to the Deputy Commissioner that, I am not a share holder. Since three years I am residing here. I have seen the factory due to my work from home. Today I know how much efforts are put to develop this cooperative sector factory. In the Athani Taluka area, there are several private ethanol units have been established. The problem our area people are facing is, they give Rs.2900 to 3000 bills to the sugarcane. Here they are giving Rs.2400 to 2500 only. The problem is they have supplementary business such as production of ethanol hence they are getting huge profits, therefore they are giving more price. The farmers of this area are approaching other private factories to get more prices for their sugarcane. Therefore this kind of cooperative factories are being closed. It is requested to the Deputy Commissioner that, if cooperation is given and facilities are provided to the by-products, the farmers of this region can be saved. Another problem is that, our region farmers are approaching newly opened Laxmi Hebbalkar factory. All are doing is that they are going to that factory. Our cooperative factory is getting low income. People going to other factories because here prices are being paid on lower side. Our elder Mr. Balekundri has established this industry in 1995. If we want to save it, we all must cooperate for it. By this we can have development and all local 68 people will get employment, this is my request to you.

Shri Jagadish I. H. environment officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Belagavi-1, thanked Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Belagavi District, Belagavi, Shri Rajshekhar Puranik, Senior Environment Officer (In-Charge), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Dharwad, all the Officers of other

departments, project staffs, public of surrounding places, media representatives and the environmentalist. He informed to the gathering that the opinions expressed by the public are audio, video recorded and included in the proceedings and will be submitted to Head Office, Bengaluru for further action.

(Sri Nitesh K. Patil, I.A.S.)
Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate &
Envir ntal Public Hearing President