

**Proceedings of Environmental Public Hearing conducted on date: 28/08/2024 on the proposal submitted by Smt. Rama Sharma, Prop. M/s Sidhi Vinayak Stone Crusher, Village Ranoh, PO Khanpur, Tehsil Jaswan Kotla, Distt Kangra HP. for the extraction/collection of sand, stone and bajri from Khasra No. 79/1 (5-72-02 Hac) and 447/1 (4-24-62 Hec) total area measuring 09-96-64 Hect. (Govt. Land) falling in MohalRanoh, Tehsil Jawan, District Kangra H.P.**

Environmental Public Hearing on the proposal submitted by Smt. Rama Sharma, Prop. M/s Sidhi Vinayak Stone Crusher, Village Ranoh, PO Khanpur, Tehsil Jaswan Kotla, Distt Kangra HP. for the extraction/collection of sand, stone and bajri from Khasra No. 79/1 (5-72-02 Hac) and 447/1 (4-24-62 Hec) total are measuring 09-96-64 Hect. (Govt. Land) falling in Mohal Ranoh, Tehsil Jawan, District Kangra H.P. was conducted on date: 28/08/2024 near M/s Sidhi Vinayak Stone Crusher, Village Ranoh, Tehsil Jaswan Kotla, District Kangra H.P. by H. P. State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office Dharamshala as per notification No-SO-1533 dated 14.09.2006. This public hearing was organized by H.P. State Pollution Control Board under the Chairmanship of Ms. Shilpi Beakta, H.A.S, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dehra according to prescribed process of public hearing and as per the notification no: S.O. 2163 (E), dated: 09/05/2022. The attendance sheet of participants present in the public hearing is enclosed (Annexure-I).

The officers/officials from Industry Department, Mining Department, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Horticulture Department, and Police Department, etc were present during the public hearing. Pradhan/ Up-Pradhan and representatives of Panchayat, & local public of Panchayats were also present during the public hearing.

First of all, Er. Varun Gupta, Regional Officer, H. P. State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office Dharamshala welcomed the Chairperson, officers and officials of various Departments, representatives of all Panchayats, local public, project proponents and their consultants. He requested everyone to express their views, comments, suggestions and objections regarding the proposal submitted without any fear and pressure, and Chairperson was requested to permit to start the public hearing.

The Chairperson permitted to start the process of public hearing and requested the project proponent to give the detailed description to the public about the project proposal. The detailed description regarding this proposed mining area was given by the consultant of the Project Proponent. The Chairperson also requested the people present in this Environmental Public Hearing to express their views, comments, suggestions and objections regarding this proposed Mining Lease without any fear and pressure from any corner.

Videography of the public hearing was carried out. Accordingly the proceedings of the Environmental Public Hearing were recorded and the same are reproduced here as under.

Sr. No.	Name & Address	Issues/Suggestions raised	Reply
1	Sh. Trilok Chand, Village Haled, District Kangra H.P.	He first thanked the Chairperson, all the officers/ Officials of various Departments and Pradhan, Up-Pradhan, local residents of the village and said that we are mostly affected people due to mining here. The land surrounding the Swan Khad belongs to our villages and a lot of mining is carried out here. Due to which huge pits have been created, this may cause bad effects in future. Usually big vehicles are parked at this crusher site. We have no information about where this mining material is being transported and sold. The government does not get any benefit from this mining as they do not impose any tax/duty on it. We are not happy with this mining. The road is also getting damaged due to mining activities. Further submitted if any person loose his life by getting swept away in the Khad, then who will be held responsible for it? Therefore, I oppose this project and appeal to the entire public to oppose this project by raising their hands because I do not have any personal benefit from it. I just want that our environment should be safe. Therefore this crusher should be closed. They have also diverted the water from the Khad into the constructed settling pits. The said site should be inspected. There are 05 to 06 very	The Project Consultant appreciated Sh. Trilok Chand for being aware about the environmental issues and replied over the matter of pits created due to the mining activities. He further said that mining will be carried out only up to 01 meter of depth and if the ground water level comes earlier, then mining will not be done. Further to avoid said erosion from agricultural land, an area of 10 meters on both sides of the mining lease will be left as a safety zone and check dams will be provide wherever there is a possibility of soil erosion. He answered about the question regarding the drying of fields in this area due to decrease of water level by mining activities. He said that the problem of decrease in water level is in entire country. For this problem, the government is making suitable efforts. Apart from this, he told about the village road that it is not used for trucks and whenever road gets damaged due to heavy rains or monsoon, the Project Proponent repaired it. But the work of constructing new roads is under the purview of concerned departments.

		<p>important aspects in this regard: Huge mining activity has already been carried out here, due to which deep pits have been created. The animals get stuck in these pits. Our lands adjoining to this area are also becoming deeper due to mining activities. The water level has gone down and land is drying. We are facing problems to commute through these roads. We are not getting any benefit from the bridge which was built by the government. There is no improvement in our road, the project owners definitely helped to repair the road by JCB but this is not a permanent solution. So our facts must be considered and this crusher must be shut down.</p> <p>He said that there is a provision for mining up to 01 meter only. Is it inspected by any authority that how much mining done here?</p> <p>He said that the information given by you is beyond our understanding. All people of the village are present here. Excavation around 40 feet has already been done here and which official has inspected this area and what action has been taken. No information has been provided by you regarding the website also</p>	<p>There is a provision of District Mineral Royalty Fund in which Rs. 10 per ton of material is deposited and 60 percent of that would be used in the periphery of 05 km affected area whereas the remaining 40 percent will be spent as per the rules of District Mineral Royalty Fund. Apart from this, the material to the economically weaker section people will be given by the Project Proponent at nominal rate in future as well.</p> <p>It was informed by the Project Consultant that even after getting environmental clearance, the Project Proponent has to submit the compliance report of the conditions mentioned in Environmental Clearance in every 06 months, a copy of which is also available with government and online on website. Further, a complaint can be lodged in case of any non compliance.</p> <p>The Chairperson directed Mining Department to submit a report on the said matter and said that if any action is required, the matter will be forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner for further necessary action.</p>
2	Sh. Ajay Kumar, VPO Sanoh Beri, District Una H.P.	He said that we don't have any issue with the crusher. When we drive a tractor and lift goods from our	The Chairperson informed that if you are doing mining activities even from your land then it

		property, the department issues a challan up to Rs 5000. He told that challans are issued by the police department for mining in the terrace area in District Una, H.P.	becomes government property under the <i>Mining Mineral Act</i> . Therefore a minimum challan of Rs 5000/- is imposed. There is a provision for challan of Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 2,50,000/-. This public hearing is being carried out for mining in Saon River. Your question is related to the Police department, which will be raised before the concerned Deputy Superintendent of Police.
3	Sh. Manoj Kumar, Up-Pradhan KotllaBehad, Village Jol, PO Jandour, District Kangra H.P.	He said that this crusher should be operated here. There is no source of sand or gravel nearby here. They issued the form-M for material and we can construct house, Panchayat's roads. We are requested that the mining work should be carried out as per the rules and the material should be available at nominal rate/price.	-----
		The Chairperson requested all the people present to express any suggestion, issue and complaint regarding this mining project and also requested all the people to mark their presence in the attendance form.	
4	Sh. Yoginder Kumar, S/o Sh. Gian Chand, Village Ranoh, District Kangra H.P.	First of all, he thanked Chairperson and the officers and employees of various departments and the local residents present in the public hearing and said that the roads have been damaged due to the crusher, which poses threat to us. The roads are getting deeper and in future there will no other way left to commute from Himachal to Punjab State from this Panchayat. There is no benefit of the bridge to this panchayat which was constructed by the Government amounting to Rs. 62 crore. He said that the government should provide a new route along this bridge so that we can connect with Punjab. There is no problem of pollution from the crusher but problem due to depth of pits	It was assured by the Project Consultant on behalf of the Project Proponent that the mining should be carried out as per the mining rules and carried out up to one meter only. The main roads will be look after by the District Administration itself but the local roads will be repaired by the Project Proponent and this work is also being carried out presently here.

		should be considered.	
5	Sh. Tarsem Lal, Pradhan Gram Panchayat Amroh, District Kangra H.P.	He said that pits should not be created due to mining here and material should be provided to the people of nearby Panchayats at nominal rate/price.  He said that mining should be carried out as per the rules.	It was assured by the Project Consultant on behalf of the Project Proponent that the material will be given to the people at nominal rate/price, however it should not be misused. The project consultant said that mining will be carried out as per the rules.
6	Sh. Pradeep Kumar, Village Katholi Beri, District Kangra H.P.	He asked whether any action will be taken on issues raised by the people present here or not. The rivers have become deeper here due to which commute through these khad also difficult.	The Chairperson requested the officers of the Police department to take suitable action in this matter. He also informed that the matter has been referred to the concerned department for necessary action and once the report received, further action will be initiated accordingly.
7	Sh. Joginder Singh, Village Ranoh, District Kangra H.P.	He asked that the solution should be provided for the lands which have been washed away due to mining activity. There is 40 feet deep pit formed here due to which our land is also washing away. Solution of the same should be provided otherwise crusher should be closed. You can inspect and check that a loss of about Rs 10 lakh of my land has been done due to mining activities and all the pillars adjoining to my land have been washed away and asking for solution of the same. He said that mining is being carried out and almost 40 feet pits have formed here.	The Project Consultant informed that this is a new mining lease and mining will be carried out only after the approval of environmental clearance. The Chairperson said that all issues raised by you shall be taken into consideration and instructions have been given to the concerned Mining Officer for further action. Apart from this, this public hearing is being carried out for the new mining lease and the concerns/objections raised in this public hearing will be sent to the Himachal Pradesh Government. The mining lease will be approved after the consideration of issues raised by public in this public hearing.

8	<p>Sh. Vijay Sharma, Incharge Police Station Sansarpur Terrace, District Kangra H.P.</p>	<p>He thanked the Chairperson for presenting his views in the public hearing and said that only police is not committed for issuing mining challan, but there are about 17 departments which have challan books and they are authorized to issuing challan for illegal mining activities. Apart from this, the police department is also performing the duties of Revenue Department, Excise and Taxation Department and Forest Department because the police department is entangled by other departments work. And if the police perform their duties then there will be no violation here. He questioned that how many departments have issued challans for illegal mining? If any complaint received then it should be dealt by concerned department but all the complaints are transferred to the police department only. An area of 90 km falls under the jurisdiction of this Police Station and there are 13 Panchayats falls under the jurisdiction of this Police station. We are using our personal vehicle to visit the site here. I have joined here about 03-04 months before and I have conducted almost 09 challans for illegal mining activities and imposed around Rs. 3 lakh. Recently, Poclairn was confiscated for the illegal mining with the help of local villagers and a fine of Rs. 1 lakh was imposed. Therefore, the police is doing its work. He requested the other departments to check mining activities on regular basis and take suitable action. He urged the people to raise their issue related to the functionality of police department, so that same could be answered.</p>	<p>-----</p>
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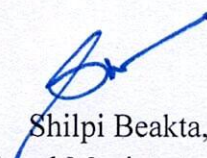
9	Sh. Trilok Chand, Village Haled, District Kangra H.P	<p>He asked whether this public hearing is being carried out for the allotment of new mining area or for the renewal of the previously allotted mining lease? He told that there is lot of damage here due to mining activities. Therefore, we want that this new mining lease should not be approved and requested the authorities not to make any recommendation for the approval of this mining lease.</p> <p>He requested the Project Proponent to provide the information about the mining carried out here.</p>	<p>The Assistant Environmental Engineer, HP State Pollution Control Board Dharamshala informed that this public hearing is being carried out for the Environmental clearance of total measuring area of 09-96-64 hectares. When the crusher was installed here, about 13 hectares of mining lease area was allotted however due to the construction of the bridge here, mining area was reduced. The said mining lease was also a Government land and to complete this mining lease area, the Government has proposed new mining lease area for which this public hearing is being carried out for the allotment of a new mining lease area.</p> <p>Assistant Environmental Engineer, State Pollution Control Board informed that this public hearing is being carried out to register your objections/issues. After the public hearing, the proceedings and video recording will be sent to the Government of India after the approval of Chairperson. The decision for approval of this mining lease area is taken by Government of India only.</p> <p>Assistant Environmental Engineer, State Pollution Control Board Dharamshala informed that this public hearing is being carried out for the new mining lease area. Apart from this, you can contact the concerned department for other issues.</p>
10	Sh. Vijay Sharma,	He requested the Revenue	The Chairperson said that

Incharge Police Station Sansarpur Terrace, District Kangra H.P.	Department to make the proper demarcation of the Swan River because it is difficult for take action for illegal mining activities without it.	instructions will be given to Tehsildar in this regard and the Mining Department will ensure for the marking the same.
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In addition, no written issues/suggestions were received during the public hearing.

After this, the Chairperson thanked all those who were present during the public hearing and said that the suggestions were given by the public without any fear and pressure. This all has been recorded in written and by videography also. This will be sent to Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and further decision shall be taken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. At last, the Chairperson thanked all the Officers, Officials of various Departments and Pradhan, Up-Pradhan of villages and local residents.

At the end, Er. Varun Gupta, Regional Officer, H. P. State Pollution Control Board thanked all the officers of different Departments and the public for attending the Public Hearing and concluded the public hearing.

  
Shilpi Beakta, H.A.S,  
Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dehra,  
District Kangra, H.P.