

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 4/6 LANE (GREENFIELD) ACCESS CONTROL EXPRESSWAY FROM VARANASI TO KOLKATA (PACKAGE-5) FROM JH/WB BORDER TO SIMANKANALI (FROM KM 387+060 TO KM 468+200) OF TOTAL LENGTH 81.14 KM UNDER JHALDA II, JOYPUR, PURULIA I, PURULIA II, HURA, PUNCHA BLOCKS OF PURULIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL UNDER BHARATMALA PARIYOJONA PHASE II BY M/S. NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, JR. HIGH SCHOOL BONGABARI, BLOCK – PURULIA-II, DIST. – PURULIA, PIN – 723 101, WEST BENGAL, ON 25.07.2025 AT 11:00 AM.

M/s. National Highways Authority of India applied to the West Bengal Pollution Control Board to conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed development of a 4/6 lane (greenfield) access control expressway from Varanasi to Kolkata (Package-5) from JH/WB Border to Simankanali (from Km 387+060 to Km 468+200) of total length 81.14 km under Jhalda II, Joypur, Purulia I, Purulia II, Hura, Pancha blocks of Purulia district, West Bengal under Bharatmala Pariyojona Phase II by M/s. National Highways Authority of India at the Community Hall, Jr. High School Bongabari, Block – Purulia-II, Dist. – Purulia, Pin – 723 101, West Bengal on 25.07.2025 at 11:00 AM.

As per the EIA Notification S.O. 1533, dated 14th September 2006, of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, 'Environment Clearance' for the said project is required to be obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, after the Public Hearing.

Accordingly, after observing all formalities, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board held the Public Hearing on 25.07.2025 at 11:00 AM at the Community Hall, Jr. High School, Bongabari, Block – Purulia-II, Dist. – Purulia, Pin – 723 101, West Bengal. A list of the panel members present in the public hearing is enclosed.

Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, presided over the hearing.

The Public Hearing proceedings started with a welcome note from Shri Sudip Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer, Asansol Regional Office of West Bengal Pollution Control Board. After explaining the provisions of EIA notifications and the procedure for public hearings, Shri Bhattacharya informed the audience about M/s. National Highways Authority of India's proposal. He also informed the audience about the PowerPoint presentation to be delivered by the Project Proponent regarding its proposal and the probable impact on the environment due to the proposed project and the remedial measures thereof. He also stated that local people could voice their independent views regarding the implementation of the project after watching the PowerPoint presentation. He further informed the gathering that the entire public hearing procedure would be noted down and video recorded, and the videography would be sent to the MoEF&CC for their consideration. He then, with permission from Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, invited the project proponent to deliver a detailed PowerPoint presentation.

The representative of M/s. P & M Solution, the Environmental Consultant on behalf of the project proponent, M/s. National Highways Authority of India started with a welcome note. He then presented the project details and the mitigation measures to be undertaken by the proponent towards the abatement of pollution. He explained the location details of the project, project highlights, key features of the project like total length, total land required, number of structures to be constructed, total water requirement, etc., for the proposed project. He further explained the environmental management plan including air quality management, wastewater management, solid waste management and other environmental effects. He also touched upon the land acquisition issue briefly and informed that the same is being done in accordance with the concerned Acts.

Thereafter, Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, briefly explained the project and requested the attendees to ask relevant questions or express views without any repetition.

After this, the audience present in the public hearing expressed their views concerning the proposed expansion project, which are noted below:

1. Sekh Munna from Bongabari inquired whether he would receive compensation for land under his ownership but occupied by someone else. He also asked about the amount of compensation he might receive.

- To this, Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, replied that it was a different issue and would be addressed separately according to the acquisition process. Regarding compensation, he explained that the matter would be handled during the acquisition process following the prescribed formula from the LA Section of the District Administration.

2. Maheshwar Roy from Sibdi inquired about his lands, which are still in someone else's name.

- In response, Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, explained to him and the entire audience the process for resolving such disputes and related issues. He further mentioned that these matters fall under the jurisdiction of the LA department and asked the attendees to focus on environmental concerns during the public hearing.

3. Sital Dubay from Monipur asked for clarification about a land division issue.

- To this, Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, again explained that the LA Section would handle the matter.

4. Harekrishna Gour from Chargali asked for the exact route of the proposed highway.

- To this, he was informed about the exact route of the highway, including the names of the villages that it would pass through.

5. Subhashis Banerjee from Damodarpur (Puncha Mouza) inquired about the measures to be taken to cross the road at various points.

- The Project Director, M/s. National Highways Authority of India stated that underpasses and flyover-type structures will be constructed at suitable points to facilitate safe crossings.

6. Bijoy Mahato from Ramamoti sought clarification on the treatment of ponds and forest areas within the project alignment.

- To this, the Project Director of the M/s. National Highways Authority of India informed that it would build structures to bypass the ponds as much as possible. Regarding the forest, he informed that the private tree felling would be compensated.

7. Ismile Ansari from Damrugutu expressed concern that his only landholding, on which he resides, might be acquired, and requested adequate compensation if so.

- *The Project Director, NHAI, assured that residential areas have been avoided to the extent possible. In cases where dwellings are affected, compensation will cover both land and structures.*

8. Manoj Dubey from Singhbazar requested to increase the compensation amount.

- *To this, Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, informed that the rate of compensation would only be fixed after the grant of Environmental Clearance.*

9. Lakshmikant Durg from Sibdi complained that his possession of a part of a land has been shown to be less than the actual area he possesses.

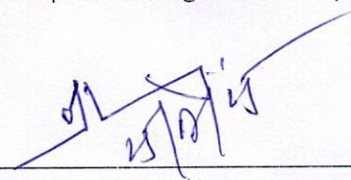
- *To this, Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, again informed that the matter would be dealt with through a hearing by the LA Section.*

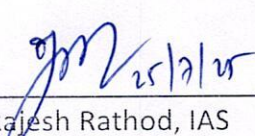
10. Ananta Mahato Hura from Baragram stated that there are multiple land-related issues and alleged harassment at the BLRO office. He suggested that such matters may be addressed in a forum similar to the present public hearing, where other officials from the district administration may remain present. He also requested reconsideration of the alignment where it passes through local playgrounds.

11. Krishna Mahato from Bongabari enquired about what would happen to the land plots in different mouzas that are not recorded in the present owner's name.

- *To this, Shri Rajesh Rathod – IAS, Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia, reiterated that the hearing was being conducted for environmental clearance, and no officer from the Land Department was present there. Nevertheless, he explained that the alignment has been planned to avoid existing structures as far as practicable. He further informed that land records will be verified, and due procedures, including hearings, will be followed before disposal.*

There being no further queries, Shri Sudip Bhattacharya, Environmental Engineer & In-Charge, Asansol Regional Office, WBPCB, requested the project proponent to take note of the suggestions and concerns raised by the participants and incorporate them as appropriate. He thanked all present and concluded the proceedings with the permission of the Chair.


Sudip Bhattacharya
Environmental Engineer, WBPCB


Rajesh Rathod, IAS
Additional District Magistrate (LR), Purulia