

**DETAIL STATEMENT (ENGLISH) OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OIL
EXPLORATORY DRILLING TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY OIL INDIA Ltd., AROUND
MAUBUANG VILLAGE, AIZAWL DISTRICT**

**VENUE : AWITHANGPA HALL, MAUBUANG, MIZORAM
TIME : 23rd August 2011; 12:00 Noon**

Introduction:

A consortium of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) with 85% participating interest (PI) and Shiv-Vani Oil & Gas Exploration Services with 15% PI has signed a production sharing contract (PSC) with the Government of India for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the Exploration Block MZ-ONN-2004/1 falling in Lunglei, Serchhip, Aizawl and Mamit districts in Mizoram under NELP-VI. PSC designates OIL as the Operator of the block. The block is located in central part of Mizoram primarily within Lunglei, Serchhip and Aizawl districts even though a small portion falls in Mamit district. The total area of the block is 3213 sq. km and lies towards south of Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram.

Exploratory drilling has not been carried at any place in the block so far. Acquisition, processing and interpretation of 2-D Seismic Survey, Gravity Magnetic Survey, Geochemical Survey has been done for the block MZ-ONN-2004/1 while 3 – D surveys are in progress.

Based on seismic data analysis, OIL is planning to carry out exploratory drilling and testing at 5 promising locations in Phase I within 2007-2012 and at one location in Phase II during 2012-2015 period within the block area as per the minimum work programme (MWP) outlined in PSC to establish the techno-economic viability for production of hydrocarbons in the block area within a period of 8 years, that is, 2007-15. In addition to these exploratory wells, as per PSC requirement, additional appraisal/delineation wells need to be drilled for commercial production in case of discovery of oil/gas. The Capital city Aizawl is nearly 5 km north of the northern boundary of the block.

The public hearing is convened to obtain views, comments & suggestions on the project ‘Exploratory Drilling & Testing in Block MZ-ONN-2004/1 (Mizoram) from the people of affected areas.

The Hearing was presided over by Shri J. Hmingthanamawia, ADC, Aizawl District, Mizoram at the scheduled date and time. The participants include all sections of life. At the outset, the Chairman after welcoming all the participants briefly explained the reason for holding the Public Hearing. He said that oil exploratory drilling in Mizoram is the Central Government initiative and the OIL India Ltd is assigned to work in this area covering 3212 sq.m. He then introduced the following local authorities and officials from Mizoram .

1. Village Council Members of Maubuang Village
2. Village Council Members/ Leaders of YMA, Lungsai Village
3. Village Council Members/ Leaders of YMA, Damdiai Village
4. Shri Lalhmachhuana, Geologist Sr, Geology & Mineral Resources Department, G.O.M
5. Shri Lalbiakkima, Geologist Jr, Geology & Mineral Resources Department, G.O.M

6. Shri Sanghnuna, Geologist Jr, Geology & Mineral Resources Department, G.O.M
7. Shri C. Lalduhawma, Member Secretary, Mizoram PCB,
8. Other officials of Mizoram Pollution Control Board

The Chairman of the hearing then invited Shri C.Laldinkima, Geologists, OIL India Ltd to introduce officers of Oil India Limited who are as under:

9. Shri A.K.Sastry, Chief Engineer, Drilling, OIL
10. Shri A.K.Thakuria, Chief Engineer, Civil, OIL
11. Shri C.Laldinkima, Geologists, OIL
12. Shri Tridiv Hazarika, Manager (Public Relations)
13. Shri Amitabh Goswami, Administrative Officer,
14. Shri Pranjal Buragohain, Consultant, Greentech E.E.C

He then invited Shri C. Lalduhawma, Member Secretary, Mizoram Pollution Control Board for introductory remark. The Member Secretary mentioned that EIA Notification was notified in 1994 and was amended in 2006. He explained the need and objectives of holding Public hearing saying that some developmental projects require Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests for which Public Consultation is mandatory, hence today's Public Hearing. He added that the hearing was notified in Vanglaini & Times of India for 30 days during which the draft EIA Report prepared by the Company was kept for inspections as per the aforesaid Rule. He also highlighted that the hearing is not meant for the Company, but for the public so that they have a say in the environmental impact of this developmental project but not to take approval from them. He also mentioned that all proceedings will be recorded in print and in video which will be sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, G.O.I. He requested the public to speak out their views, comments and suggestions regarding environmental impact of the proposed project so that the Company could make changes in the draft and make final report accordingly.

The Chairman then requested Shri C. Laldinkima, Geologists, Oil India Limited for a presentation on the project. He explained about the meaning of various terminologies like 'explore', produce, transport, refining relating to the proposed project including the functions and proposed work plan of the project. He explained the work area allotted to the Company with the help of a Map which extends over four (4) districts of Mizoram viz Aizawl, Lunglei, Serchhip and Mamit District and that five (5) wells will be drilled in the first phase while one more well is kept for the second phase. He mentioned that environmental studies have been conducted within 10 km radius of the pinpoint and that a depth of about 5 km will be drilled which will taper towards the bottom. He also explains in detail with the help of pictures about drilling well bore and casing and the drilling procedure which is reported to be done with water based mud.

He also explained the ground and surface water quality, air quality, soil characteristics, agricultural, crops, climatology & meteorological data including rainfall and humidity etc,

generated by the company around the Block. He also said that water requirement will be 25-30 KLPD for drilling machine, 10-15 KLPD for mud preparation, and about 3 KLPD for cooling. He further informed the public about the source of pollution, risk and accidents that could occur in the work area and various mitigation measures like pit for drilling mud, chimney to emit smoke from DG Set, Blow Out Preventor (BOP) for fire explosion etc and that trained personnel will be deployed if necessary to take care of accidents. Wastes management team will also be available at the site to oversee waste management in the drilling site.

The Chairman then invited comments, views and suggestions from participants of the affected areas. The issues raised and clarifications from the project proponent in detail were as below:

1. V. Thangliana, Teacher, Middle School, Maubuang:

“In the Executive Summary, under the head ‘Pollution Control’, it is reported that ‘Organic solid wastes including sewage and food leftovers generated at temporary camp facilities at the exploratory well site will be disposed off as per approved procedure.’ Meanwhile, some workers rented a house here during surveying work. Plenty of waste poly bags were found near their rented house, which are even difficult to dispose sometimes due to its quantum. One of the activities of the Eco- clubs of Maubuang School is to occasionally collect plastic wastes from every corner and dispose them off properly. If the company is to permanently work here with such habit of leaving traces, it will not be convenient. I therefore request them to be more careful in future.

It is also mentioned that ‘Formation water (if any) produced with oil during exploratory production testing of oil/gas will be treated in a clarification system and treated effluents meeting the on-shore discharge standards will be discharged in nearby river/nullah at a controlled rate, if necessary.’ Will discharging such water into river/nullah be safe? If not and if it is to be disposed off in the cliff here or near the village cemetery, will the aquatic animals in the ‘Khuava River’ be affected which runs slightly below the cliff or the cemetery?”

My next question is regarding Project benefits. It is reported that ‘Oil and gas production, if commercially viable, will result in additional revenue generation for the State and Central Governments and will assist in providing energy security to the country. It will also generate some employment potential and lead to infrastructure development of the block area’. Again, under ‘Demographic and Socio-Economic’ sub head under the head ‘Environmental Impact

Assessment', it is written that 'No adverse impact can be expected on socio-economic conditions of the area during exploratory drilling and testing operations. Slight beneficial impact on job opportunity may be expected because some local persons may get temporary employment as unskilled or semi-skilled workers during the drilling phase.' Prior studies have been carried on in this area for a long time now and no one from local people was engaged. In fact, they brought workers from outside. Priority is not given to us. Will the company stand firmly upon their statement regarding employment? I request the company to give us priority to us if there is oil."

OIL: *"If water is present while oil is extracted, the mixture will be separated. After separation and treatment, the water will be harmless and safe for discharge into river. If it is not safe, it will be treated."*

"Regarding food leftovers and other wastes, our work plan has included a proper disposal system. There may be times when we happen to throw some wastes plastics, but our system has included disposal techniques. We cannot say that it will be 100 % free of refuse, but we plan to carry on our works so that everyday life of the public is not disturbed by our refuse."

"As for revenue from the project, if oil/gas is commercially viable, and as mentioned by chairman of the hearing the State government will get royalty at 12% on oil and 10.5% on gas as per the agreement between the central government, state government and the company."

"The company would like to engage local youth who are sincere, efficient and skilled. Every one of us wants to work in our own palace. There will always be a place for one if he is fit and sincere."

2. K. Malsawma, Maubuang:

"The company is not careful at all regarding disposal of plastics cups etc. You all need to train yourself in this regard."

"You will be working here in search of oil and 100 % job is to be given to the local people as per the agreement. Will you fulfill this agreement? Do you plan to engage the local people?"

“What will be done with land acquisition? Is there any benefit for land owners? What will the state government do?”

OIL: *“We deeply apologized for the inconvenience caused by plastics wastes littering in our camp site.”*

“I have not heard of any 100% job placement in the agreement. I request you to tell us of your source.”

K. Malsawma. Maubuang:

“It was mentioned by Shri Vanlalzawma, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), during an interview in DDK at the time the agreement was signed.”

OIL: *“No land will be acquired without necessary payment. Everything will be done through the state government.”*

“May I request Chairman of the hearing to inform us of the procedure.”

Chairman: *“Land acquisition is an important subject. The project may require about 2 ½ hectares of land. Anywhere in India, if a company require plot of land, land acquisition is processed as per the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and I believe that the same Act is to be applied here also. Meanwhile, if private land exists within the land required for the project, the type of pass belonging to the owner play an important role. Maubuang is a village and in every village, Village Council (VC) has authority to allot pass for housing but not for gardening or farming. This VC pass may be considered as valid. However, in case of land belonging to public, it may have to be reconsidered.”*

3. K. Malsawma, Maubuang

“There are plots of land holding Periodic Pass through Revenue Department of the state government and some are with VC Pass. Besides, as per the order of the government in 1987 for the purpose of controlling Jhum cultivation, most of us were allotted a plot of about 2 hectares. That was issued by Village Council (VC). Some of these VC pass have been converted to Periodic Pass. Only one place was converted to have Land Settlement Pass

(LSC) on special ground as that area could be used as playground. This means that all the land owners are either with periodic Pass or VC Pass. All the private owned land now rightly belongs to each owner as VC has granted them following the government's order and is not appreciated if such private land is to be acquired."

Chairman : *"Periodic patta means periodic allotment of plot of land by the government to a person for a period of 5 years. This empowers that person to use the land without any ownership right. If the government requires that particular plot, the government can get the land back or cancel the Pass without any compensation even before the expiry of 5 years. Regarding land for Jhoom Control, VC are given temporary permit as practiced in the National Land Use Policy (NLUP) practiced today. If the Programme has been implemented, the land will be the property of the government again."*

4. H. Thanzawna, Lungsai:

"The government is dealing with the Company. During construction of World Bank Road, the contractors failed to follow number of things that they said they would do. The wildlife was affected greatly by the construction work. Now, with this Oil Company too, the government is dealing with the Company and the government can take back the land, but company is the one which is working and it is the people here who will be affected. Even if they have a very good plan, I don't think it could be followed."

"Lots of things in the booklet (Executive summary) need clarifications and I am not clear about it and I am not going to ask questions from the report. However, it was reported just a few days back that Oil Company is making alignment for road within the Safety Reserved Forest. Although I welcome oil exploration, I personally object to have road passing through Safety Reserved Forests which is maintained for the safety of the people. While the Forest Department and Pollution control Board are busy planting trees out of their concern for ozone depletion, it does not seem right to construct road within Safety Reserved Forests. Is road to be built there? If yes, it will not be safe for the local people."

OIL: *"You are very lucky to have such a leader. We don't say that all plans could be implemented at 100%. But we are giving our best efforts for maximum implementation."*

“Regarding road construction through Safety Reserved Forests, that particular site is too steep and we are looking for another site and contouring survey is underway. Every developmental project requires destruction of forests and fauna to some extent but we will try our best so as to least affect the forests.”

“I am sorry to hear that you have had bad experiences with the World Bank Road Project. As such, if you find anything objectionable, you are always welcome to come to us.”

5. Lalbuanga Sailo, Maubuang:

What will be the social benefit especially in terms of employment?”

OIL: *“We have been contributing for Social development under Corporate Social Responsibility if they are within our capability. Playground, market shed etc is being asked in some places too. At present, the company is only at its very initial stage; we can not promise anything big unless and until we have production. You let us know your requirement and we will discuss. What we can offer at this stage is like giving financial help to Students’ Union etc.”*

“Regarding employment, different classes of job like executive, clerk, peon, sweeper etc. will be available.”

6. R. K. Pazawna, VCP, Maubuang:

“If Corporate Social Responsibility could be implemented, should it be done through Government Department? Will it be reliable if it is done through Government Departments?”

“How many engineers, clerks, unskilled labour will be required?”

“We do not have any idea whether road was being built or trees were felled in the Safety Reserved Forests areas. Now, the company is in touch with the local Village Council (VC), but before, we never received any information from the company. We have been requesting the public to cooperate them since this is a government initiative. However, if any tree in the Safety Reserved Forests is felled without our knowledge, we will act according to the law. If the company is to work within the jurisdiction of Maubuang VC, it is anticipated to have the work done through the Village Council so that if there is any problem in future, we will try to

solve together. We had experiences with other company. Even some workers of this company had worked in one of the villager's ginger yard. They are even reported to have eaten vegetables and fruits and the owner was very disappointed. If the VC were aware of their work plan, the farmers could have been informed that they would be working there. As such, I request you to work hand in hand with the Village Council”

Chairman: *“The Village Councils are grass root level Authority. All the Government Departments never do anything without the Village Level Authority. It may not be desirable if the company fails to consult the Village Council. As mentioned by the VCP, the company may have to deal with the VC of Maubuang in all its endeavors, be it the site or road alignment as it is the head authority here.”*

OIL: *“We are very thankful for the advice. There may be undesirable things in the past which I may not be aware of. We have been working in this area since 2007, and I deeply apologized if we did anything against the will of the VC and without consulting them. So far, we talked to the VC concerned in the first place. The disappointment expressed by Village Council President about felling of trees in the Safety Reserved Forests was right. Nobody would be pleased if someone cut trees which we take care of. We will remind ourselves not to intrude into someone's property unless required for our work and to keep working in consultation with the village council.”*

“Regarding CSR activities, we can give financial help directly if it is a small amount. For example, we may give some amount to YMA to arrange hall for a public meeting etc. However, if the requirement is big, our system is to give financial help through Deputy Commissioner only, who is also the District Collector.”

“It is difficult to say the exact number of workers required at the moment.”

7. Lalbuanga Sailo, Maubuang:

“I like to stress on the previous question regarding employment again. If there is production, will jobs be available for the illiterate too, for example, in the construction of Workers' Camp?”

OIL: *“For those who are sincere, efficient and hard working, jobs of different kind will definitely be available. We just need to prepare ourselves.”*

8. R. Lalramzauva, Headmaster, P/S, Maubuang:

“We have read and we have heard about the project but there are things which still confuse me. It is written that the government will receive 12 % royalty. Is there any other thing that is of public interests? To what extent is the government related to the company?”

“If oil is found in Maubuang, will refinery be put up here? Or have you identified any particular place in Mizoram for the same? Your period of stay here may depend upon the quantity of oil available here. On the outside we are just happy that oil is being explored here in Maubuang areas rather than neighboring areas thinking that it could be a boon to this village, but it could turn out to be a total bane to us too. But let us hope that the company will not work defectively. How do we get benefit from this project?”

“Wastes mud is reported to be contained with polythene in a ditch, may be as big as this very Community Hall, which will be covered after it is full. However, polythene is known to take long years to decompose and are said to be often responsible for landslide. Does this mean that that particular piece of land will become barren afterwards? Will this pose problem later? It may be that I missed what you have said, but is it possible to make biodegradable polythene.”

OIL: *“The wastes to be contained in a pit are mostly water and sand or mud which is bio-degradable. It is expected that it will not reduce fertility of the soil and that it will not pose problem in future with regard to landslide too. I assure you that we will give our best effort.”*

“We do not have Refinery on our own. We are not a refining company. But we do tie up with refining company to whom we feed crude oil. If oil is found in huge quantity refining companies like BBCL, AOC etc might come in. The company does not have anything to say in this regard at the moment.”

“Regarding your query on agreement in the MoU, what agreement do you exactly mean? Under NELP, there are six round of bidding and we bid in the sixth round. Our work contract starts from 22nd May 2007 to 21st May 2012 in the first Phase and extends to May 21, 2015 in the second Phase. We are to drill six wells within this period. Under this contract, minimum work programme has been worked out. For example, we are to cover 975 km for 2-

G seismic studies while we have already covered 1352 km and we have collected 871 samples against the targeted 500 sampling in the contract.”

9. R. Lalramzauva, Headmaster, P/S, Maubuang:

“Does not the company have refining facilities?”

OIL: *“No, the company does not have refining facilities.”*

10. R. Lalramzauva, Headmaster, P/S, Maubuang:

“Supposing you can not go on as per the terms of your agreement and the village is displeased about the site being too smoky or too smelly and want to lodge complaint, does the agreement contain clause which barred the villagers from doing so? If the people here are to be displaced if there is enough reserved oil to be tapped, does the agreement between the Government and the Company prohibited the people from submitting their grievances?”

OIL: *“There are no such agreements. The company would not like to sign such terrible agreements. Besides, the government and the Pollution Control Board are very powerful. The PCB recently stopped the operation of one oil company as the Board is not satisfied with the effluent treatment pit. Never think that you do not have a voice. But it is to be done systematically as per the rules.”*

11. K. Malsawma, Maubuang:

“We have received certain assistance from the government before. If these assistance are given through DC, it is fair enough but not through other government agency. It is desired to constitute a separate Board which will be empowered to analyse what will be best for the village rather than the Village Council.”

“Regarding used plastic bags and cups, it was the Asian Oil company. Few surveyors of the Company who rented my house were clean enough. I have directed them before they moved in with proper commitment regarding wastes and I do not have anything against them in this regard.”

“The public is enthusiastic about this oil exploration thinking that we will now be able to procure oil or gas at cheaper rates. But I think that we are not yet ready to encounter the development. We still need to learn to be sincere and efficient.”

12. Name unknown:

“If there is oil in Maubuang, we are very lucky indeed. But I request you to work here with an upright mind. The ADC also knows everything and I request him to keep an eye upon their operation so as to check if anything undesirable or disadvantageous happens here. Even if the company needs to work in a private owned land, it is desired that arrangements be made so that the owner has certain benefits”.

13. T. Rolura, Maubuang:

“The Word Bank Road project considered safety of the public and camped 1 Km away from the village. The Oil Company will have to remain here for a long time if there is oil. Does the company have any arrangement to defend the villagers against those which could harm the villagers by way of drugs abuse, rape or cross-cultural marriage?”

“Large plot of land will be required for drilling activities and for building approach road. During site preparation, huge quantity of loose earth will be generated. This may damage forests and so the habitat of wildlife. Do you include plan for disposal of the excavated earth?”

OIL: *“Work Camp will not be located just near the village and there are specific norms which we must follow. We will not stay close to villagers. The Mizo society is a very free society and the plain people may not understand that in the first place. As of now, we do not have any plan for protection against drugs or any illicit affairs. However, people from different society works together in our company and especially in our Headquarter, we never have problems like eve teasing.”*

“We will acquire land not only for drilling activities but also for disposal of loose soil. Some forests and wildlife habitat within our premises may have to be destroyed to some extent. We do need to cut down some trees otherwise we can not work.”

14. H. Thanzara, Maubuang

“The World Bank contractors have a separate disposal site for loose soil. Do you plan to have separate disposal site?”

OIL: *“It is not yet known where approach road will be built and we do not yet identified where to dispose the loose soil. A proposal for disposal of loose soil in a separate yard can be submitted but I cannot say it will be approved or not.”*

15. Daniel Vanlalrema:

“Supposing a plot of land belonging to a villager lie in the area required for oil exploration, which part of the land rightly belongs to him as per the government decision?”

Chairman: *“There are Union lists, State lists and Concurrent lists in the Constitution. Mineral Resources are in the Union list. This means that all mineral resources in the earth below a depth of 6 feet belong to the Central Government even though a person possesses Land Settlement Certificate for which he pays revenue every year.”*

“If a company is to acquire private owned land, the type of Pass will play an important role in terms of compensation. If he holds a valid LSC, he will be granted compensation depending upon the land value. If he has cultivation in it, compensation will be calculated as per the scheduled rates of the Government for each type of crops. However, for a land with periodic patta or Village Council Pass, land value can not be taken into account. As stated earlier, periodic patta does not bear the right of ownership but only the right of use. As such, only value of crops can be compensated.”

16. (a) H. Thanzawna, Lungsai:

“Our DC has mentioned about the Act and Rules. As stated before, this area has been divided amongst us to earn our living. Some of us have spared the flora here instead of using them. They are preserved as we pay respect to the properties of others. Our Chairman has mentioned about compensation for crops only but not the flora which are our support. I request the authority to bear this in mind.”

Chairman: *“As per the Act, compensation can not be given against natural vegetation. If someone plants trees like Gmelina or Gamari, it can be compensated.”*

16. (b) H. Thanzawna, Lungsai:

“It is not the Government but the Company which will be working here. Whether they work in a private or public owned land, it could be detrimental for us all. As stated before, the World Bank Contractors spared our trees which we planted and gave us compensation as per their existing rates. My question now is whether the company will adopt the procedure of the World Bank Contractors or not or the state government shall take charge of compensation wholly?”

Chairman: *“For World Bank road construction, Land Acquisition Act did not apply. They have their own rules under which even landless villagers were compensated if they have been residing there from before. That is the main difference with the World Bank Projects. Everywhere in India except Jammu & Kashmir, Land Acquisition Act, 1894 applies to all public sector companies and the same will apply this time too. The company will write to Deputy Commissioner when the location and area of land to be acquired are ready. We will then check the area and after verification by surveyors, we will start acquisition process and that is the procedure we may have to adopt.”*

17. H. L. Rinliana, Maubuang

“We are preserving our land by sparing our trees and the cost of bundle of firewood costs as high as Rs. 1000/-. It will be a misfortune if the spared trees in a private owned land can not be considered as crops. What is to be done if trees and Bamboo growing in our land are to be destructed without any compensation?”

Chairman: *“There is a list of crops and other vegetation approved by the Government. The rates vary depending upon its size. Smaller ones which are at infant stage are the cheapest and go on like that. Trees and Bamboos except Gmelina or Gamari etc are not included in the list. It is desirable to include trees, bamboo or broom, which are not natural vegetation in the list. It may be wise to talk to higher authority to include other trees and bamboo in the list”*

18. K. Lalmangaihkima, Asst. Secretary, YMA, Maubuang

“If flora could not be compensated, it may be desirable to have oil drilling in other areas. But let us hope that the authorities will consider it.”

“While preparing drilling site and approach road, certain amount of soil will be removed and it is most anticipated that there is proper proposal for its disposal beforehand. As we are aware, during World Bank road construction in Hmuifang area, lots of removed soil entered a river here inspite of the promises not to dispose off into the river thus killing fish, crab and prawn in it. We could not even collect small spawning fish. This time too, a river runs beneath the cemetery. Therefore, it is most desirable to have a proper disposal system and a concrete proposal for the same now but not later. Is it then possible to dispose off in a pit like the one for treating wastes mud? Other companies before has denied our trust and we have thus become more stringent.”

OIL: *“That is a good question and it may be very good to have a separate disposal site. However, as far as my knowledge goes, I am not aware of any arrangement as yet. I will try to convey the requirement to higher authority. I think it will be even better to look for site with the contractors and village authority later. Please don’t take it other way, but I personally feel that it may be better if collecting small spawning fish could be stopped. We will try our best, but we can not promise you that it may be up to your standards and expectation. But I do request you to keep eye in our doings.”*

19. H. Thanzawna, Lungsai:

“The company is only making a proposal. While making roads anywhere, there will be loose soil which may bring problems to the public. As such, disposal site may be fixed by the public with the VC and ensure that loose soil is disposed off in that place only so that flora and fauna are not affected too.”

OIL: *“We will go by the guidance of the state PWD. The PWD will select disposal place and we will dispose all loose earth there.”*

Additional Question:

“Do PWD have such guidelines? If they don’t, it amounts to nothing.”

OIL: “We will go as per direction of Mizoram Pollution Control Board”

20. V. Thangliana, Maubuang

“In the Executive Summary, under the head Environmental Impact Assessment and sub head water resources and quality, water requirement for drilling operation is reported to be 40 m³ per day. How will you manage with water requirement from a village like Maubuang where water scarcity is a big problem?”

OIL: *“We will look for suitable source of stream and we will draw by pipe to our site from the source itself. Otherwise, we will carry by means of truck depending upon our requirement.”*

21. V. Rolura, Maubuang:

“If air pollution from the project is so high that it becomes devastating to the public, has the company prepared any evacuation system?”

“Will the company acquire any appropriate land for Camp site even if that plot of land belongs to private owner?”

OIL: *“If such episode occurs, we will study the cause and will try to rectify it.”*

“Any piece of land will not be taken without necessary payment. We will contact the owner and will be processed through proper channel.”

22. R. K. Lianzuala, VCP, Maubuang

“How far should the drilling site be located from human habitat?”

“We were thinking of discussing this oil exploration and possible effect from it with NGOs and interested villagers. We however have to do so after the hearing. As mentioned before, it

appears that our trees and bamboo can not be compensated. The probable site i. e Area reserved for Cemetery has been visited just a few days back with engineers. However, all plot of land in that area belong to private owners except some few plots which belong to Young Mizo Association (YMA). Some trees there are as old as 50 years and they are worth over Rs 1000 and the cost of even one Bamboo pole may not be lower than Rs 50. Besides, Bamboo chipping plant is to be established here and in fact under NLUP, villagers who opted for this trade are given awareness to plant bamboos next year. In view of our low economic status and our expectation, it may not be possible to just let go even one bamboo pole without compensation. As such it is more desirable to explore oil in other areas. I request the DC and Company to understand our condition and to sit for a discussion.

OIL: *“We have to stay 500 m way from School, hospital and human habitation. Besides, drilling operations may take about 3-4 months and 5 months at maximum only if some unavoidable circumstances occur. As such normal life will not be affected greatly”.*

CONCLUSION:

The summary of the meeting was read out and necessary corrections were made. After duly signing of the minutes by the Chairman, the Meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the Chairman