



BINOY VISWAM

MINISTER FOR FORESTS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

08.10.2010
Date.....

Dear Shri. Jairam Ramesh ji,

The health and environmental hazards caused by the killer insecticide Endosulfan to the people of Kasargode District of Kerala is well known to all. The chemical was used indiscriminately in the cashew plantations in the said district and has caused serious and chronic illness, which forced the Kerala High Court to intervene in the matter in the year 2002. Following this, the state Government had banned its sale and use in the state.

Pursuant to the studies and survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Directorate of Health Services of Kerala, the State had started a number of interventions to remediate and rehabilitate the victims, most of whom are chronically ill cases, whose ailments manifest even after years of the spraying being discontinued.

The State has now constituted an expert team to assess the quantity of loss happened to the local Environment due to the use of Endosulfan, and the study is under progress. Even then, Endosulfan is being used in the neighboring states and other parts of the country and it badly affects the border areas of the State.

At this juncture, I would request you to immediately intervene in this matter, and do all the needful to ban the use of Endosulfan in the country.

As you may also be aware that Endosulfan that caused such misery to our people has been banned or phased out from almost all countries in the world, and it is being seriously considered as a candidate Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) under the Stockholm Convention. Many studies have come up, consequent to this incident, that clearly shown the extreme toxic nature of this chemical. India being one of the countries affected by this chemical and considering the heritage of this nation as an environmental steward has to take the initiative to get Endosulfan phased out of the world. I request that immediate steps be taken to ban the manufacture, sale and use of Endosulfan in India. I also request that India should represent its case for a global phase out of this killer pesticide in the review committee of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to be convened at Geneva later this month.

I hope you will take affirmative action in this regard

Thanking you

Yours Sincerely,

Binoy Viswam.

Shri. Jairam Ramesh,
Hon'ble Minister of State for-
Environment and Forest, (Independent charge)
Government of India.