



V. S. ACHUTHANANDAN
CHIEF MINISTER
KERALA

D.O.No. 615/VIP/CM/2010 Dated: 08..10..2010

Dear Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji,

Endosulfan - called 'soft insecticide' by promoters of the product, has adversely affected the life of people in 11 Grama Panchayats of Kasaragod District. The common factor which connects these villages is that they all have plantations run by Plantation Corporation of Kerala which used endosulfan sprays in their cashew plantations in these villages since 1976. Adverse effects of these highly toxic organochlorine pesticide were noticed in human beings and animals since the early 1980s. However, the magnitude of this issue became known only in the 1990s and strong public action against its use led to its ban in Kerala. It is estimated that around 300 persons lost their life due to the ill effects of this pesticide and large number of persons are suffering from various ailments, as shown by various studies. It has caused large scale contamination of water, soil and air. Some studies have also shown that the ill effects of this pesticide is carried from mother to child, the consequences of this aspect cannot be ascertained at present.

The general public and Government of Kerala has been working tirelessly towards banning the production and marketing of endosulfan which can have long lasting adverse impact on the environment. In the convention which took place in Rotterdam last year, decision to ban the production of endosulfan could not be taken because of opposition from India.

It is learnt that Endosulfan Manufacturers and Formulators Welfare Association has written to you that endosulfan is one of the largest generic insecticide exported from India and all campaigns against it are sponsored by international agencies and environmental NGOs and that their activities are unlawful and illegitimate. They content that there is no scientific

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integrity in the studies which indict endosulfan as an insecticide which has adverse impact on human beings and animals. I am not commenting on any of these issues as scientists and international policy makers should examine these contentions. But I can say with conviction from the studies we have undertaken in the affected villages, that acute suffering and hardship is faced by the people in these villages and that it is caused by endosulfan. No amount of arguments can negate what has happened in Kasaragod. The State Government has undertaken rehabilitation efforts among the affected population. We have established a special cell for relief, remediation and rehabilitation of victims of this so called 'soft insecticide'.

It is my earnest request that you may kindly take efforts to understand the reality of the adverse long lasting effects of endosulfan on the environment and ensure that the insecticide is prevented from being used. I am sure that there are more safer options which can protect environment while assisting the farmers in protecting their crops. Please ensure that India does not stand in the way of international communities opinion against endosulfan.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(V.S. ACHUTHANANDAN)

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon. Prime Minister of India
Government of India
New Delhi.