

INDIAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Always Niyojakamandalam Committee
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Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine,
Geneva, Switzerland

Sir,

For Circulation during COP-3 at Dakar

Early Apr'07, a news paper report in Kerala, India claimed that one Mr. Purushan, Eloor an environmental activist had been invited to attend COP-3 of Stockholm Convention scheduled to be held in Dakar (30th Apr'07 - 4th May'07) to speak about hazards and environmental pollution due to manufacturer of DDT by Hindustan Insecticides Limited at its factory located in Eloor, near Kochi in Kerala, India. In this connection, we would like to submit the following factual information.

Hindustan Insecticides Limited was set up in India with assistance for WHO in the year 1954 for manufacture of DDT mainly for controlling malaria which was rampant in Asia. Its second factory is set up in Eloor, Kerala in the year 1957. This would show that Hindustan Insecticides Limited has been manufacturing DDT for over 50 years. In the past five decades thousands of employees had completed their working career in the factory producing DDT. None of the employees nor their children or grand children has ever suffered any health ailment clinically attributable to exposure to DDT during its pre production, production and post production. Similarly, there has been no health ailment attributable to manufacture/exposure of other pesticides manufactured by Hindustan Insecticides Limited. The news paper report released by environmental activist Mr. Purushan Eloor that DDT is causing health hazards to people living in and around Eloor is false and is made with an ulterior motive to cause alarm and to gain financial support from UN agencies through such organizations as PAN that are ideologically opposed to use of DDT.

As noted earlier, Hindustan Insecticides Limited is a Company owned by Government of India manufacturing DDT to control Malaria still rampant in India. Official statistics show that India has nearly 2 million cases of Malaria annually even now. Besides meeting India's requirement of DDT, Hindustan Insecticides Limited is the major supplier of DDT to African countries. Perhaps, the hidden agenda of Mr Purushan Eloor is to cause disruption in supplies of DDT to African countries by levelling false allegations against the major DDT producing Company. The Secretariat and Parties to Stockholm Convention should not allow such malicious campaign be allowed during COP-3 of Stockholm Convention.

Indian National Trade Union Congress is one of the largest trade union body in India with international affiliation and working relations with many others including UN Agencies. INTUC would like to categorically state that all allegations of Mr. Purushan Eloor are baseless and that he lacks qualifications and locus standi to talk about DDT on behalf of people of Eloor. Therefore his allegations should not be taken on record.

Yours truly,



GENERAL SECRETARY