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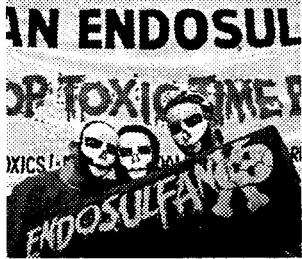
Endosulfan

NCW asks Centre to take steps to contain menace

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THE National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Govt of India to take appropriate action to solve the problems, arising out of Endosulfan use in the Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and others. The NCW passed this direction on a petition filed by Supreme Court advocate and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

The petition explains the plight of people, especially that of the women and children by the use of Endosulfan in cashew nut plantations



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result in severe health hazards. The pregnant women feel unbearable pain and give birth to deformed children.

The people living in the nearby areas also become physically and mentally challenged. Although Endosulfan has been banned in more than 70 countries in the world, India is the one country that opposed the ban of its use. In his petition, Tripathy questioned India's reluctance to ban its use.

The international conference which was held at Stockholm in October, 2010 recommended that Endosulfan should be listed as a highly hazardous chemical.

Tripathy requested the

NCW to recommend to the Centre to ban the use of Endosulfan, conduct nation-wide survey of the victims of Endosulfan use, provide them adequate medical care, rehabilitate and compensate them and enact stricter laws to regulate the use of pesticide.

In a similar petition before the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Tripathy raised identical issues of violation of child rights by the use of Endosulfan and explained as to how it costs children's lives. Considering his petition NCPCR has asked the Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Kerala Government to re-

spond to the points as raised in the petition.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has already asked the State Human Rights Commission of Kerala, in two cases filed by Tripathy.

In the first petition, the petitioner explained the death of more than 500 people in 11 panchayats in Kasargod, Kerala. In his second petition, he emphasised on the fact that for the fault of the Health, Environment and Agriculture Departments of the state, the citizens cannot be subjected to untold miseries of deformity and numerous physical and mental challenges.