



June 6th, 2011

Shri Nitish Kumar
Chief Minister of Bihar
1 Anne Marg
Patna, Bihar

Dear Hon'ble Mr. Kumar,

On behalf of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) and the people of the State of Bihar and the global community promoting the education of the dangers of asbestos, we urge you to stop the three asbestos plants that have been established in Bhojpuri in light of the deadly health impacts associated with asbestos. Despite the impassioned and well-reasoned protests of the people of Bihar against the construction of such a plant in Marwan blocin Muzaffarpur district in the village of Chainpur-Vishunpur, asbestos still poses a danger to the people of Bihar. Two asbestos plants have recently been established in Bihiya, Bhojpur, Bihar by the Tamil Nadu based company, Ramco Industries Ltd. and the third has just been established at Giddha, Koilwar Block, Bhojpur, Bihar by Tamil Nadu based Nibhi Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Despite the scientific findings and global consensus on the dangers of asbestos there has been an increase in the rate of consumption of asbestos in Bihar.

The World Health Organization, International Labor Organization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Surgeon General all agree: asbestos is a human carcinogen and there is no safe level of asbestos exposure. *All* forms of asbestos cause malignant mesothelioma, lung, laryngeal, and ovarian cancers, and may cause gastrointestinal and other cancers.

The World Health Organization states that 107,000 workers die annually from asbestos-related lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. This is a nearly a 20% increase in workers deaths compared to the 2006 statistic. In addition asbestos exposure leads to premature morbidity and disability. Decades of science have proven that all six types of asbestos fibers – chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite – are carcinogenic. This lethal mineral has been banned in 55 countries. Asbestos is used extensively in building materials in both urban and rural India. Furthermore, The World Trade Organization's Appellate Body had upheld the right of European Countries to ban white asbestos in 2001.

The former Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, stated in the Upper House of Indian Parliament, "Studies by the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, have shown that long-term exposure to any type of asbestos can lead to the development of asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma."

Not only are those who work in the asbestos plants exposed to, and endangered by, the asbestos fiber -entire communities are at risk since asbestos can be unknowingly carried home on worker's clothes and hair. Clinical reports show that the deadly effects of asbestos such as asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer can take up to 25 to 40 years after exposure to be diagnosed, and most patients die between 6-12 months after diagnosis.

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization
"United for Asbestos Disease Awareness, Education, Advocacy, and Community"
1525 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 318 · Redondo Beach · California · 90278 · (310) 251-7477
www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization urges you, on behalf of the people of Bihar, to protect your people, to initiate appropriate, immediate steps to stop the asbestos plants in Bhojpur from threatening the lives and health of the people of Bihar. In so doing you will be joining with the growing local and global community in recognizing the scientific data about the dangers of asbestos and promoting the long and healthy lives of the people of Bihar.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Reinstein, ADAO President/CEO and Co-Founder and Cofounder

Richard A. Lemen, Ph.D.
Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service (Ret.)
ADAO Science Advisory Co-Chairman

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CC: Via e-mail:

Mrs Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council
Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, Government of India
Mr Lal Krishna Advani, Member of Parliament, former Deputy Prime Minister
Mr Jairam Ramesh, Union Environment & Forests Minister
Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Health Minister
Mr Anand Sharma, Union Commerce Minister
Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Finance Minister
Dr Murali Manohar Joshi, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Parliament of India
Mrs Sushma Swaraj, Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha, Parliament of India
Mr Arun Jaitli, Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Parliament of India
Dr. C P Thakur, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers
Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Bihar
Dr. Pratima S. Verma, District Magistrate, Bhojpur, Bihar