



June 6<sup>th</sup>, 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"**  
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[www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](http://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 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

Arthur L. Frank, MD, PhD.  
Professor, Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Drexel University, School of Public Health

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  
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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