



TRANSNATIONAL CENTER (TNC)

For Non-Violent Social Change

"NAVAJEEVAN" Station Road, DHARWAD 580 001 KARNATAKA India

Please reply to;

10th April 1985.

Dear Friends,


I am enclosing a copy of the Memorandum submitted to the Chief Minister of Karnataka Government, regarding two recent moves which affect the access of the poor to resources and also spend public money for the benefit of a private company.

Since some of us from TNC are actively associated with these movements, we are sending this information to keep you posted and if you feel strongly about the contents of the Memorandum, kindly write to the Chief Minister and Prime Minister with copies to the Secretaries of Department of Environment, New Delhi and Bangalore. We would appreciate your sending us a copies of your letters including your comments on this efforts.

We look forward to hearing from you,

With Best Regards,

Yours Sincerely,


S.R. Hiremath.
President.

srh/lmk.

MANNU RAKSHANA KOOTA
GANDHI BHAVAN
KUMARA KRUPA EAST,
BANGALORE-560 001.

MARCH 27, 1985.

Shri. Ramakrishna Hegde,
The Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka,
BANGALORE-560 001.

Dear Shri. Hegde,

Sub:- Memorandum requesting action in the
interest of people's needs and environment
regarding the Karnataka Pulpwood Ltd.,
and the Farm Forestry Programme and the
Harihar Polyfibre Ltd., (Industry,
Government and People).

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We have learnt with grave concern about the two recent
moves of the Government of Karnataka viz., (1) Rs. 30 crore
project setting up a joint sector company called the Karnataka
Pulpwood Ltd., involving 75,000 acres (30,000 hectares) of "C"
and "D" class of lands in high rainfall areas of Shimoga, Sagar,
Bhadravathi, Koppa and Chickmagalur and (2) A Farm Forestry
Project involving 45,000 acres of "C" and "D" class of lands
within 100 Km. radius of Harihar Polyfibres in four Districts,
viz., Shimoga, Chitradurga, Bellary and Dharwad.

Both of these programmes are essentially to benefit one
private enterprise, viz., the Harihar Polyfibres Factory to
satisfy its wood requirements. In the former, the purpose is
to grow eucalyptus and other fast growing trees for the Harihar
Polyfibres and in the latter, by leasing land to the agriculture
labourers, the purpose again, is to grow eucalyptus to be sold
to the Harihar Polyfibres at "reasonable rate".

We wholeheartedly support any move to give land to the
landless. However, we feel strongly that the purpose, especially
in this Farm Forestry Scheme, should be to meet the basic needs
such as the Fodder, Food, Fuel etc., and certainly not for
growing eucalyptus and selling the same at "reasonable" price for
the sole benefit of one private company, the Harihar Polyfibres.

....2.

We strongly feel that the Government should reconsider and withdraw these moves. The floating of a joint sector company with "C" and "D" lands for the sake of a single a private enterprise and when the product (rayon clothe) is certainly not the basic need of the people of the state is totally unjustified. This is all the more so considering the grave pollution problem that this enterprise has created affective very adversely the health of the people, cattle and fish in Tungabhadra river. Neither the Government nor the company has made any concrete move to componsate the poor fishermen who have suffered a great a deal due to depletion of fish well over a decade and a recent massive fish kill on February 14, 1984. There is overwhelming evidence and documents including government reports, inspections and the findings of Scientific bodies supporting that the pollution of these industries is the major cause for the worst situation of these fishermen.

We strongly appeal to the Government to reconsider and withdraw these measures and initiate steps to help the landless through land, financial and technical support, so that they can meet their basic needs and have a multiplier effect on the local socio-economic life of the villages.

A thorough reexamination of the entire social forestry schemes is clearly warranted. The various programmes under the scheme need to be directed towards the people, instead of towards the industry. A holistic approach needs to be fomulated, to restore the lost balance and avoid the aberrations and distortions that have set in. It will be appropriate for the Government to constitute a committee consisting of unbiased experts and public spirited citizens. We should like to suggest that the services of people like Dr. Shivaram Karanth, Dr. Madhav Gadgil, Prof. D.K.Subramanyam, Fr. Cecil Saldanha and Prof. L.T.Sharma, be utilized for reorienting the programme.

Some of us who are working with the rural poor through voluntary organizations would be happy to extend our cooperation to the government in implementing social forestry programme for the benefit of local community for meeting their basic needs of fodder, fuel, raw-material for village artisans etc.,

SIGNATURES TO THE MEMORANDUM

PHONE:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Sri. S.R.Hiremath, | : Transnational Centre,
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| 2. Dr. G.Pais. | : President,
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| 5. Sri. Anantha Hegde, | : Secretary,
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17. Sri. S.Sreekant., : Project Coordinator,
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* * *

Book Post

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