

Title: Need to look into the health problems being faced by the people of Padre Village in Kasargod district of Kerala due to the presence of endosulfan pesticide in soil and water. – Laid.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): The people of Padre Village in Kassaragod district of Kerala are suffering from horrendous diseases including congenital anomalies, reproductive disorders and neurological abnormalities. In 2001, National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), ICMR's premier institute had conducted a scientific study on the causes of disease in the village. This report, submitted in early 2002, noted the presence of endosulfan pesticide in soil, water as well as human blood samples of children collected from the region. The report also found that the samples of blood collected from Padre showed high levels of endosulfan as compared to samples collected from the control village of Meenja Panchayat. In its considered view, 'endosulfan was the causative force' for health problems in the village.

But in 2003, the Central Government appointed expert group, chaired by O.P. Dubey, concluded that there is no linkage between the prevailing health problems and endosulfan.

It has now come to my notice that key members of the next expert group do not endorse the report of this committee. Moreover, there is also information to suggest that the findings of a private laboratory, used by the expert group to support its conclusions, were incorrect and doctored.

This case concerns people, who are faced with an extraordinary health burden and disease of their children and family members. It must be dealt with compassion and extreme care so that their interests are protected over the interests of powerful industrial groups.

The Government must respond to these issues and find a way ahead to resolve the matter with sensitivity to the people concerned.
