

अजय नारायण झा
AJAY NARAYAN JHA, IAS



सत्यमेव जयते

सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
July 8, 2016

D.O. No. 22-15/2016-HSMD

Dear Aruna,

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal ministry for all matters related to the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Our experience in the Stockholm Convention on POPs indicates that there seems concerted effort in targeting generic pesticides manufactured and used by the developing countries such as India under the Convention. The benefits of such action accrue to the manufacturers of patented pesticides/industrial chemicals most of which are located in the industrially advanced developed countries. The need therefore, is a calibrated science based approach to be followed and rigorously pursued. While we must make every effort to strive towards a POP-free future, we have to do so without compromising on the equally important objective of food security.

2. We have taken several administrative and regulatory measures to mitigate the problems posed by hazardous chemicals and wastes including POPs but still a lot needs to be done. There is a huge gap in the capacities of developing and developed countries on the issues to these multilateral environmental agreements. The need for stepping up technology transfer, exchange of information about alternatives and flow of financial resources are issues plaguing these agreements (Conventions). India is aware of its obligations under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and is committed to meet its obligations despite limited technical and financial resources available.

3. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention established pursuant to Article 19 of the Convention is the governing body and composed of Parties that have accepted, ratified or acceded to it. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) is a subsidiary body established by the COP under Article 19 (5) (a) and 19 (6) to assess the chemical and recommend for its listing in Annexes A (for elimination), B (for restriction) and C (for unintentional production). Likewise, the COP to the Rotterdam Convention established pursuant to Article 18 is the governing body and composed of Parties that have accepted, ratified or acceded to it and the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) is a subsidiary body established by the COP under Article 18 (6).

4. It is informed that in the meetings of the COPs held biennially, and in meetings of the CRC and POPRC, India is invariably handicapped due to lack of domestic information/inputs from stakeholders concerned. The next meetings of the CRC and POPRC are scheduled during September 14-16, 2016 and September 19-23, 2016 respectively, in Rome, Italy. May I therefore request your assistance in providing timely information on the following aspects:-

- a) quantity of production, import or export data of Atrazine; Benzidine; and Hexachlorobenzene and the alternatives to these chemicals;

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- b) industrial sector or other applications in which the chemicals at (a) above are used;
- c) quantity of production, import or export data of Dicofol;
- d) quantity of production, import or export data of Pentadecafluorooctanoic acid (CAS No.335-67-1), PFOA, perfluorooctanoic acid), its salt and PFOA-related compounds and the alternatives to these chemicals;
- e) industrial sector or other applications in which the above chemicals at (c) and (d) are used;
- f) quantity of production, import or export of Decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, e-decaBDE and its alternative;
- g) industrial sector or other applications in which the chemical at (f) above are used; and
- h) quantity of production, import or export data of brominated diphenyl ethers and its alternatives.


5. I would also like to inform that this Ministry has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Working Group with ex-officio representatives of concerned Ministries/Departments including Civil Societies and Industry Association, for the purpose of examination of technical matters relevant with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and recommend course of action, collate and provide information / data on chemicals relevant with these conventions, and assist the nodal Ministry in firming up India's position on issues of concern with these Conventions.

6. I shall be thankful if the information contained at para No. 4 above, as may be relevant in your case, is made available to this Ministry at an early date so that this time India is not handicapped in the forthcoming meetings of the CRC and POPRC scheduled in September, 2016. Copies of agenda for CRC-11 and POPRC-12 are enclosed for your kind perusal.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Encl: As above


(A. N. Jha)

Dr. Aruna Sharma,
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UNITED
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Organization of the
United Nations

RC

UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.12/1

**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade**

Distr.: General

18 April 2016

English only

Chemical Review Committee
Twelfth meeting
Rome, 14–16 September 2016**Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Rotation of the membership.
4. Technical work:
 - (a) Consideration of draft decision guidance documents:
 - (i) Carbofuran;
 - (ii) Carbosulfan;
 - (b) Report of the Bureau on the preliminary review of notifications of final regulatory action and the proposal for a severely hazardous pesticide formulation;
 - (c) Review of notifications of final regulatory action:
 - (i) Atrazine;
 - (ii) Benzidinc;
 - (iii) Hexachlorobenzene;
 - (d) Review of the proposal for the inclusion of carbofuran suspension concentrate 330 g/L as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation in Annex III.
5. Venue and date of the thirteenth meeting of the Committee.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.

**UNITED
NATIONS****SC****UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/1**Distr.: General
24 April 2016

Original: English

**Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic
Pollutants****Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee**
Twelfth meeting
Rome, 19–23 September 2016**Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Rotation of the membership.
4. Technical work:
 - (a) Consideration of draft risk profiles:
 - (i) Dicofol;
 - (ii) Pentadecafluorooctanoic acid (CAS No: 335-67-1, PFOA, perfluorooctanoic acid), its salts and PFOA-related compounds;
 - (b) Consideration of a draft risk management evaluation on short-chain chlorinated paraffins;
 - (c) Consideration of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties:
 - (i) Decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, e-decaBDE);
 - (ii) Unintentional releases of hexachlorobutadiene;
 - (d) Consolidated guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its related chemicals;
 - (e) Process for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
5. Report on activities for effective participation in the work of the Committee.
6. Workplan for the intersessional period between the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Committee.
7. Venue and date of the thirteenth meeting of the Committee.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the meeting.