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Government of Kerala
കേരള സർക്കാർ
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KERALA GAZETTE

കേരള ഗസറ്റ്

EXTRAORDINARY

അസാധാരണ

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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Environment (B) Department

CIRCULAR

No. 4095/B2/11/Env.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 21st July, 2012.

Sub:— Environmentally degrading activities detrimental to public health and safety—Adherence to statutory provisions and guidelines—Directions issued.

Read:—1. D. O. Letter No. 14-1 (335)/2009-HSMD dated 16-7-2010 from Sri Vijai Sharma, Secretary to Government of India, MoEF.

2. Minutes of the State level review meeting on level of preparedness of major chemical Accident Hazard Units held on 14-10-2011.

In compliance with the instructions in the letter referred to above on steps to be taken for safe storage, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals and

33/3319/2012/DTP.

management of situations arising out of major chemical accidents, a state level review of the level of preparedness for effective management of chemical accidents had been done on 14-10-2011, minutes of which had been communicated to all concerned for implementation of the decisions taken. However it is seen that the occupiers as well as the statutory agencies charged with the task of ensuring compliance of standards, specifications, mitigation plans and implementation of guidelines including monitoring mechanisms in respect of chemical accidents fail to respond to situations as it required by the rules and guidelines. An instance has come to the notice of Government that a gas burst from a waste dump site adjacent to an occupier factory was mistaken as a chemical accident and treatment given to about seventy students and four teachers of a Government Girl's High School nearby, for 'Chlorine leak' whereas the gas involved was not chlorine. Such instances though absolve the occupier, do not give room for complacency in the matter of off-site emergency plans and post accident handling of situations.

Environmentally degrading and disagreeable activities like dumping of biodegradable wastes including food wastes in the open or burying it at wet or marshy places near public or educational institutions, causing emanation of poisonous and other gases and foul smell is as serious an act as those causing chemical accidents.

The Health and Police Department authorities and Local Government Institutions are therefore authorised to enforce the statutory provisions and standing orders related to each, in the matter of such environmentally degrading public nuisance causing such incidents and also to take action against those public authorities not exercising their statutory or executive responsibilities in preventing such activities detrimental to public health and safety.

Those who are indulging in such environmentally disagreeable and illegal activities may also be compelled to adopt environment friendly and approved scientific waste management practices to avoid the legal consequences of polluting and causing health hazards.

JAMES VARGHESE,

Principal Secretary.

To

The Director General of Police.
The Chairman, State Pollution Control Board.
The Director of Health Services.
All District Collectors.
The Director of Panchayats.
The Director, Urban Affairs Department.
The Director, Environment and Climate Change Department.
The Director of Factories and Boilers Department.

Copy to:—

Health and Family Welfare Department.
Home Department.
Local Self Government Department.