

Dr. H.L. Sharma
Director,

By Spl. Messenger

F.No.107/74/2006-NT

20.11.2008

Dear Ms Dey,

This is in continuation of my discussion on telephone that I had with you on the forenoon of 18th November, 2008 regarding an article entitled "Seed farming for Jatropha may face ban", written by Ms. Sushmi Dey and Shri Rajeev Jayaswal, which appeared in Economic Times dated 14th November, 2008. You have quoted a senior official of the Ministry. I had informed you that no Ministry official had spoken to you in this regard. During our conversation on telephone, you had clarified that the information reported in your Article dated 14.11.2008 was obtained from someone who doesn't belong to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. I had also spoken to Shri Rajeev Jayaswal, Deputy Chief of Bureau, Economic Times on 18th November, 2008. He mentioned that the information reported in the Article was given by some Scientists, who attended the meeting Shri Jayaswal did not agree to reveal their names. This kind of mis-reporting should not have happened.

The correct position is given below:-

- (i) There is no proposal being considered by the Government to ban cultivation of Jatropha using seeds. This information is totally incorrect.
- (ii) The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy had convened a meeting on 20th October, 2008 with ICAR, CSIR, DRDO and DBT to take stock of the position relating to availability of elite germplasm screened and identified by these R&D organizations / Departments and to assess further R&D work required for multiplication of elite genotypes / accessions for taking them for demonstration purposes. It is in the context of such R&D/demonstration work to be undertaken by the research organizations that the Experts had suggested that elite genotypes / accessions should preferably be propagated by vegetative propagation and tissue culture. It may, therefore, be noted that at no point of time the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy or the Experts have suggested to move a proposal to ban the field cultivation of Jatropha through seeds by the cultivators.
- (iii) The Information given in your Article has sent a wrong message to the stakeholders. The Ministry has started receiving calls from the Industries enquiring about the proposal of banning of Jatropha plantation through seeds as reported in your article.

2. Therefore, you are requested to issue a corrigendum immediately in your Newspaper. We would appreciate your quick action on this matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(H.L. Sharma)
Director

Ms. Sushmi Dey,
Senior Correspondent, Economic Times,
7th Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi – 110002.

Copy to:- The Editor, Economic Times, 7th Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002.

(H.L. Sharma)