



Coal Hungry Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Long Term Power Generation Plan includes building 4700 MW Coal power capacity from 2016-2032 period, which is at least 1x 300MW coal power plant every year. It is against 'Mahinda Chinthana' which expects to reach 20% renewable energy target by 2030.

Ceylon Electricity Board's (CEB) long term generation plan produced in 2013 for next 20 years based on 7%-10% demand increase is expecting to generate 231 MW from non-thermal power stations and 4969 MW by thermal sources. Ironically 4700MW will be produced using coal power. For this purpose, 16 coal power stations will be setup around the country making Sri Lanka, one of the highest polluting nations of the world.

It is expected that 897 MW thermal power stations due to be retired during this period. Producing 4700MW by coal power is not justifiable when current peak demand is only around 1700MW. The over produced energy will be sold to India by laying a submarine transmission cable connecting Anuradhapura and Madurai in India.

CEB plan has neglected 10% non-conventional renewable energy generation expressed in the 'Mahinda

Chinthana'. CEB has so far not shown interest to generate electricity through non-conventional renewable sources, which is widely available in Sri Lanka. Current renewable energy generation is only less than 3MW.

CEJ believes that CEB plan has fundamental errors. Generating electricity by burning imported coal and linking the Indian and Sri Lankan energy grids is a dangerous move. It will jeopardies the country's energy sovereignty.

Moving towards high polluting coal shows the ignorance of the decision makers, when other countries move towards renewable sources due to the climate change. Therefore, political leaders and policy-making bodies much wake up now and halt the coal hungry energy generation plan of the CEB.

Glyphosate ban blocked

Now it is proven that even the highest political authority cannot touch the agrochemical companies.

As Daily mirror reported on 12th March 2014 the use of the weedicide Glyphosate(Round Up) has been banned on a directive from President Mahinda Rajapaksa. According to Deputy Minister S.M. Chandrasena this weedicide is known to be linked to the rapidly spreading kidney disease in Sri Lanka.

However, the Chemical Advisory committee has blocked this decision saying that there is no proven evidence that Glyphosate is responsible for CKDu. President's decision was based on the hypothesis produced by Dr. Channa Jayasumana and others entitled "Glyphosate, Hard Water and Nephrotoxic Metals: Are They the Culprits Behind the Epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology in Sri Lanka?". The hypothesis was appeared International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health in early 2014.

Since then several articles appeared in media opposing the ban on the basis that the ban was based on a hypothesis, which is not yet proven.

However, research done in other countries shows that Round up which is a mixture of Glyphosate with other chemicals have chronic effects than Glyphosate chemical. The article entitled "Roundup and Glyphosate-Toxicity Have Been Grossly Underestimated" by Dr. Marcola states that "tests showing that people in 18 countries across Europe have glyphosate in their bodies, while yet another study revealed that the chemical has estrogenic properties and drives breast cancer proliferation in the parts-per-trillion range."

It further states that "According to regulators, glyphosate is thought to be practically nontoxic to aquatic invertebrates. The water flea is a widely accepted model for environmental toxicity, so this study throws serious doubt on glyphosate's classification as environmentally safe." The article suggest that: European Commission and US EPA toxicity classification of these chemicals need to be revised.



Centre for Environmental Justice

20A, Kuruppu Road, Colombo 08, SRI LANKA

Tel: 0094-112-683282 email: info@ejustice.lk Website: www.ejustice.lk

