



New initiative to save ozone layer from CTC

By Nirranjan Kaggere

City-based garment and refrigeration industries may have to check their production and consumption level of Carbon Tetra Chloride (CTC) and mull over alternative methods quickly. The Environmental Ministry's Ozone Cell has decided to ban it completely in a phased manner in a bid to check its harmful effects. The Union Ministry has taken the state governments into confidence in deciding on the measure.

TC, which is regarded as one of the green house gases is increasingly used as a cleaning agent in garment industry and as a cooling in refrigeration industries. The Central initiative, jointly financed by the governments of Germany and France, aims to help people and industries tide over the ill-effects of CTC. In Karnataka, as part of the programme, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is helping the State government in regulating the use of CTC in small and medium scale industries.

The Industrial suburbs like Peenya, Hosur Road, Whitefield and K R Puram houses a good number of industries using CTC and have come under the scanner of project experts. The programme in Bangalore has begun with the help of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Industrial Associations. Jayatheertha, a Field Programme Officer with the project said, "We have been helping the industries free of cost and provide them with alternatives to CTC and also recycling methods.

Many industries have already come forward to join hands with the initiative but the response is still at the initial level. So far in the city the CTC usage has come down around 20 percent."

According to Mathew CJ, environmental advisor to GTZ in the state, "In industries like printing, garment and textiles and refrigeration CTC is used as cleaning and cooling agent. The CTC emitted is absorbed into the atmosphere and it inflicts great damage to the ozone and other atmospheric layers. The Centre's decision comes on the close heels of India's stated commitment to ban the production and consumption of greenhouse gases completely by 2009." B N Manjunath, an environmentalist says, "With more number of printing and air-conditioning industries mushrooming around the city, CTC engulfs the city area and makes it more hot. Awareness should be created about the side effects. "The project has also been extended to Belgaum and Mangalore in Karnataka. The exposure to CTC would lead to skin cancer, losing vision, kidney failure, gastroenteritis and also leave impact on the nervous system. On mixing with the water bodies, the chemical will destroy the aquatic flora and fauna.

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