

an>

Title: Need to release fund for centrally funded environmental initiatives in Kerala.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The National Green Corps and the National Environment Awareness Campaign are two major grass root level environmental initiatives in Kerala. These programmes have made remarkable progress in recent years. The programmes are centrally funded. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) communicated to the State Science & Technology establishment that funds would not be available for this year. The decision of the Central Government is against a well implemented participatory programmes for creating environmental awareness. The climate change and unscientific intervention to the environment are two major issues, creating awareness among the people particularly in student community is highly essential for conservation of environment and sustainable development. These programmes are operated through a network of different agencies such as NGOs, educational institutions, youth organization, government departments and local bodies. These programmes are helpful for giving environmental messages on specific themes to targeted groups. The decision of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to suspend the fund for the programmes is not fair and justifiable. It is highly necessary to release fund for the programmes.

Hence I urge upon the Government to issue immediate direction to release fund for the centrally funded environmental initiatives in Kerala.

-