

# **Don't Let Dow Create Another Bhopal In Pune**

## **KICK OUT DOW, SAVE PUNE**

### **Fight To Stop The Construction Of Dow's R&D Centre Near Pune!**

Dow Chemicals, an American Multinational Corporation, is setting up a Research and Development Centre at Shinde Vasuli village, near Chakan in Pune District, 30 kms from Pune. What research it is going to do, no one knows. But what is definitely known is that this research centre was denied permission in the US and Europe for reasons of toxicity. And so, Dow is opening this research centre in India. There are hardly any laws regulating industrial pollution in India. The few that exist, are not implemented.

The people of the region are angry. They refuse to be guinea pigs. Their beautiful area will become polluted. People's health will be destroyed. Even coming generations will be affected. And so, the people of Shinde Vasuli and nearby villages have launched an agitation against this proposed Dow R&D centre. Their demand: the government must cancel the land allotment to Dow; Dow must leave the area.

We, the people of Pune, must support this struggle, to prevent another possible Bhopal...

### **DOW IN INDIA: Succeeding the Killer Of Bhopal**

Dow took over Union Carbide, the company responsible for the Bhopal Gas Disaster, in 2001. Despite holding full ownership of Union Carbide, it is refusing to accept any liabilities for the disaster. The gas leak was a result of deliberate negligence and naked profiteering. It has killed 20,000 so far, due to illnesses from the gas. Over 1.5 lakh people still suffer from serious illnesses caused by the gas. Despite the immensity of the tragedy, Dow refuses to help in the medical and economic rehabilitation of the gas victims. It claims that the compensation of Rs. 25,000 paid to the Bhopal victims "is plenty good enough for an Indian". Dow is also refusing to clean up the toxic wastes and the contaminated soil and groundwater around the plant site. More than 20,000 people living in the area have no alternative but to drink this contaminated water. The result: even today, deformed children are being born. Dow argues that the clean-up of the toxic wastes at the plant site is the responsibility of the MP government, and that the money for it can come out of the compensation paid to the victims! Such is Dow, inhuman, cold-blooded, heartless...

### **DOW IN INDIA: Brazenly Bribing Officials**

In February 2007, the US Security and Exchange Commission reported that Dow has admitted that it paid \$ 200,000 as bribes to Indian officials to get three pesticides registered in India. Following this revelation, the CBI raided Dow's offices in six Indian cities. Of course, nothing has happened after that, 'Investigations are on...' Meanwhile, the pesticides continue being sold, Dow continues to profit.

One of these pesticides is Dursban. It is proven to brain damage children. Its sale has been restricted in the United States. In 2003, Dow paid a fine of \$ 20 lakhs to the state of New York for illegally advertising Dursban as "safe". Dow has now even set up a plant to manufacture Dursban in India. Again not very far from us. At Lote-Parshuram, in Ratnagiri district. Dow's sales literature in India claims Dursban has "an established record of safety regarding humans and pets"! Even criminals have ethics, Dow has none...

### **DOW IN INDIA: India rolls out a Red Carpet for the Company**

Today, India's rulers, both at the Centre and the States, are welcoming gigantic multinationals with garlands. To get them to invest their dollars in the country, they are willing to accept the most humiliating conditions. And so foreign corporate armies and their concubine governments are trampling upon our honour and dignity.

In 2006, the US Trade Representative publicly warned India to put an end to liabilities of US Corporations in Bhopal, if US investments are to flow into India. So, when Bhopal gas tragedy victims marched to Delhi and demanded prosecution of Dow, the Prime Minister refused to commit, saying only: "We have to do business." Our rulers have become so subservient that when Americans ask them to bow, they crawl. The Planning Commission has set up a special task force to promote Dow's investments in India.

## **DOW WORLDWIDE: Hundreds of mini-Bhopals...**

Dow Chemicals is one of the most polluting companies in the world. Here is a **partial** list of the Bhopals it has created worldwide:

1. Dow factories in its home state, Michigan, USA, have polluted the entire region, including the river Tittabawassee, with Dioxin. Dioxin is probably the most toxic chemical in the world: causes birth defects, miscarriages, cancer, immune and hormone system damage, developmental disabilities, diabetes, dermatitis and a range of other problems. Thousands affected.
2. Dow factory in Louisiana buried its toxic waste in pits next to the plant. Has polluted the groundwater for miles. With vinyl chloride: causes miscarriages, skin problems, numbness, high blood pressure, stomach problems, nausea, asthma and breast cancer. Thousands affected.
3. Nemagon or DBCP: More than 45 lakh kgs of this pesticide was being sprayed on crops every year in the US, till it was banned in 1977. By then, it had polluted California's drinking water, affecting 9 lakh people. Causes liver, kidney and lung damage, and makes men sterile.
4. Dursban: Was the most widely used household pesticide in the US, till it was phased out in 2000. Causes brain damage in children; can result in blurred vision, fatigue, muscle weakness, memory loss and depression; can cause cancer, and affect reproductive systems and hormonal systems. Yet Dow continues to sell it worldwide. Has probably affected tens of lakhs of people.
5. 2,4,5-T: A widely used herbicide in the US, it was sprayed over lakhs of acres of food crops and gardens and forests, till public pressure forced Dow to quit making it in 1983. Causes miscarriages, still births, birth defects, and many other serious illnesses. Must have affected tens of thousands.
6. Haloxyfop: A herbicide. Causes cancer, damages kidneys, liver and bone marrow, and also affects the nervous system. Hence, its registration was rejected in the US. Yet Dow continues to sell it throughout the world. Must have affected millions.
7. Nuarimol: Dow couldn't register this fungicide in USA because tests showed it causes cancer and birth defects. Yet Dow sells it in Africa and Latin America, where it is used for seed treatment and as a spray on a wide range of vegetables and fruits. Must have affected millions too.

...the list is very long. Dow makes nothing but toxic chemicals.

## **IF CORPORATIONS COULD BE HANGED, THEN DOW SHOULD BE**

**Dow never tells the truth:** Lab tests done by Dow on DBCP had revealed way back in 1958 that it was highly toxic. Yet Dow continued to sell it in the US. For 2 decades. And even after it was banned in the US, it continued selling it in Central America... more than 50,000 workers became permanently sterile...; Dursban, Haloxyfop, Nuarimol, ... Dow knows all these are toxic, they've been banned in the US, yet it continues to sell them in poor countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America...

**Dow is ruthless in its quest for profits:** Dow used every possible legal loophole to delay the ban on 2,4,5-T, so that it could get some extra marketing time for this highly prized herbicide... it got more than a decade...; Dow is not above manipulating science, it spent \$ 100 million dollars on financing various studies to prove that Dursban was harmless; whenever attempts have been made in the US Congress to pass a bill promoting safer alternatives to PERC, a widely used but toxic dry-cleaning chemical, Dow has successfully lobbied Congressmen and prevented its passage; violating all ethics, Dow has conducted tests of its poisonous chemicals on human beings, including prison inmates.

**Nay, Dow is genocidal:** For decades, Dow has made the most terrible chemical weapons for the US military. These include **Agent Orange**. This poison was extensively sprayed over forests during the Vietnam war. At least 5 million Vietnamese were affected. Until today, two generations later, about 500,000 children have been born with crippling congenital deformities. Tens of thousands of US troops serving in Vietnam were also exposed and now suffer from leukemia and other diseases. Another Dow innovation is the dreaded jelly-like **Napalm**. It sticks to the skin, burns through to muscle and bone, killing victims with excruciating pain. Its affected tens of thousands, from Vietnam to Iraq.

## **BEWARE: Dow's agents at work**

Are we going to believe such a criminal and murderous corporation when it claims that it is going to do harmless research near Pune? Yet senior government officials in Pune have started issuing statements that Dow is benign!

Following the people's protests at Shinde Vasuli, in order to prevent it from spreading, the Government has set up a high powered committee to examine the safety of Dow's research proposal. This is six months after Dow began construction! Why was this not done when Dow submitted its research proposal?

It is known all over the world that Dow is a liar. Even assuming the government committee is honest, why would Dow reveal its true intentions before it? One of the committee members, the Deputy Director of NCL, has already given a certificate of safety to Dow. This he gave on January 22, 2008, six days after the people of Shinde Vasuli forced stoppage of construction at the R&D centre. By his own admission, he gave it without seeing Dow's project report. The report of this so-called experts committee is already a foregone conclusion.

## **FIGHT TO KICK DOW OUT OF INDIA !**

Dow has never produced anything other than toxic chemicals which cause cancers, deform babies, turn millions of healthy people into invalids and poison entire regions the world over. Its research in Shinde Vasuli is only for producing more such poisons, and the toxic wastes from this research are going to devastate the nearby area for miles, even reaching Pune. It is not only in our interest but in the best interests of humanity that we should not allow the construction of Dow's so-called R&D centre. Not just near Pune, but nowhere else in India.

People of Pune, let us join the brave struggle launched by the villagers of Shinde Vasuli to stop Dow from setting up its research centre there. This is as much our struggle, as we and our children will all be affected by its pollution. We, some activist groups of Pune, have come together to launch a KICK OUT DOW, SAVE PUNE MOVEMENT. Do join us in our various awareness campaigns and agitation programs that we are going to organize in the coming days.

## **Kick Out Dow, Save Pune Movement**

Lokshashan Andolan, Lokayat, Pune Municipal Employees Union, Shramik Mahila Morcha, Sarva Shramik Sangathana, Maharashtra State Government Employees Association, Insurance Employees Union, Insurance Pensioners Association, Maharashtra Nurses Federation, Shramik Ekta Mahasangh, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Rashtra Seva Dal, Hamal Panchayat

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