

# **All India Kisan Sabha**

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## **Press Statement**

29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, New Delhi

### **The NDA Government's decision to proceed with the Kasturirangan Report is highly objectionable.**

The affidavit filed by the Ministry Environment and Forest before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the Union govt. will proceed with the Kasturirangan Report and the NGT's response to accept the same are highly objectionable. The Kasturirangan report is totally inadequate to protect the environment in Western Ghats and have clauses detrimental to the livelihood and developmental aspirations of the local people. The NDA Govt. has not removed the various anti-people and anti environmental clauses in the Kasturirangan report.

The Union Minister Prakash Javedkar had taken stand earlier that the Union Govt. will implement the Gadgil report. But under the influence of the corporate forces keen to plunder the natural resource the Modi Govt. has now turned 180 degree to prefer the Kasturirangan Report. This exposes the BJP led Govt.'s deceitful character once again.

The widespread protest against the anti-people provisions in the Gadgil Report forced the Union Government to backtrack. But through the Kasturirangan Report it has allowed exploitation of natural resources by native capitalist forces and corporate houses in almost two third regions of the Western Ghats. The All India Kisan Sabha has taken the stand that instead of both the Gadgil and Kasturirangan Reports, a new panel with adequate representation of various social sections and the experts must be formed by the Union Govt. to prepare a fresh report capable of protecting the environment and livelihood of the peasants, workers and the local people.

The implementation of Kasturirangan Report will make the lives of the people in the Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) horrible and the AIKS will provide leadership to struggles against the same. The recommendation of Ummen V Ummen committee report and the UDF Government in Kerala are in support of those social forces plundering natural resources. At the same time the UDF Govt. has no answer to the people in 123 Villages who will face serious threat to their socio- economic development rights. The AIKS demands all the State Governments in Western Ghats Region to clear their position on the stand taken by the Modi Government to implement Kasturirangan Report.

The AIKS call up on the peasantry and the working class sections in the Western Ghats regions to come forward against the anti-people anti- environmental stand taken by the Modi Government.

Sd/-  
Amra Ram  
President

Sd/-  
Hannan Mollah  
General Secretary