

Hazardous Substances in India and the World: Legislations, Frameworks and Management By (Prof.) Dr. T.R. Subramanya

Prof. (Dr.) A. Lakshminath*

“The earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed”

-Mahatma Gandhi

The ever growing economies and the greed to have more has brought the planet under climatic degradation. Climate change is a global issue which transcends national boundaries. One of the prominent factors is the disposal of hazardous substances and wastes in a dangerous manner. As long ago as 1987 a report in the U.S. drew attention to the deliberate placement of hazardous substances particularly waste sites in Global South. Prof. Rob Nixon in his book on “Slow Violence and Environmentalism of the Poor”¹ wrote that ‘slow violence’, is the way MNCs use depleted Uranium and dump toxic e- waste and chemicals

*Distinguished Professor Emeritus, MNLU, Aurangabad, Distinguished Professor, HPNLU, Shimla, Founder Chancellor, DSNLU, Pro-Chancellor and Vice – Chancellor, CNLU Patna.

¹ Nixon, R. 2011. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, MA and London, England: Harvard University Press.

recklessly on the earth, in a way to avoid responsibility, because it does not look like ‘real’ violence . It is not immediate, spectacularly and sensationally awful.

The rapid increase in dumping of hazardous substances in an irrational manner is a result of competition and greed of the developed nations. The need for sustainable development arose as industrial activities posed a threat to the ecology in the last century. At this juncture the book “Hazardous Substances in India and the World: Legislations, Frameworks and Management” is a well-researched book which emphasizes the need for sustainable development. The learned author in his book has dealt with the subject in a comprehensive manner.

The book under review is the manifestation of the author Prof. Dr T. R. Subramanya’s², rare scholarship, with unique research skills and expertise in environmental law, policy and management. This book is a rich contribution by an outstanding legal academician to the reading public in general and to legal fraternity and environmentalists in particular. Very few scholars venture to write on such difficult subject where Prof Subramanya with his rare intellectual acumen displayed his mastery on the subject on every page of the book.

Being one of the very few and rarely privileged Legal Advisors to the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain, Prof. Subramanya, an intellectual genius and a great orator has authenticated his rich practical experience in the Book under Review. The introductory chapter draws attention to the complex subject and reminds the readers the significance and need for well-organized management of hazardous substances. The book has made an elaborate classification of hazardous substances, their toxic nature and the danger posed if their disposal is done lethargically and randomly. The author’s critique on International Conventions on the subject is remarkable and offers a convenient guide

² Currently serving as the Dean of CMR University’s School of Legal Studies, Bengaluru and former Vice – Chancellor of Karnataka State Law University.

for researchers and policy makers .The two chapters which exclusively deal with the Indian position is elaborated with relevant case law is comprehensive and yet lucid .The chapter on the principle of liability is very interesting and praiseworthy .The author's warning that if hazardous substances are not properly managed they will pose a serious threat to the human health and environment, is timely and needs immediate attention by the concerned authorities, both at national and global south.

This age of the growing economy has seen rampant industrialization which has witnessed adverse impact on the environment. The crusade for safeguarding our environment is the need of the hour. International cooperation between nations is required to combat the danger. At this juncture, this book is a master piece which will be of great assistance to all concerned with sustainable development. The author has given several recommendations to improve the handling of hazardous substances. These recommendations, if adopted by the policy makers will save our planet from further degradation.

As emphasized by the publishers (Routledge Francis Taylor group, UK) this comprehensive and lucid book on Hazardous substances is useful to all the stakeholders particularly the legal fraternity, policy makers and NGOs. To put it precisely this book is timely and an excellent addition to the subject which is not only meant to be read but also chewed and digested which alone will be a befitting reward for the author, a rare amalgam of unique skills and rare intellectual acumen, for his hard and dedicated work.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

CMR University Journal for Contemporary Legal Affairs (ISSN: 2582 - 4805) is published annually, by CMR University and printed at the CMR University Press, #2, 3rd 'C' Cross, 6th 'A' Main, HRBR Layout, 2nd Block, Kalyana Nagar, Bangalore 560043, India. CMR University Journal for Contemporary Legal Affairs seeks to inform and educate the community by publishing articles, papers, and reviews concerning contemporary legal developments.

The opinions expressed in the articles presented in the CMR University Journal for Contemporary Legal Affairs are those of the authors and shall not be construed to represent the policies of CMR University or the CMR Jnanadhara Trust. Any use may be made of the material in this journal to the extent allowed by principles of fair use. Broader rights, may be obtained by prior permission of CMR University. Requests for permission to reproduce or republish any material from the CMR University Journal for Contemporary Legal Affairs should be sent to registrar@cmr.edu.in. All intellectual property rights not expressly granted here are reserved. Copyright © 2021 CMR University.