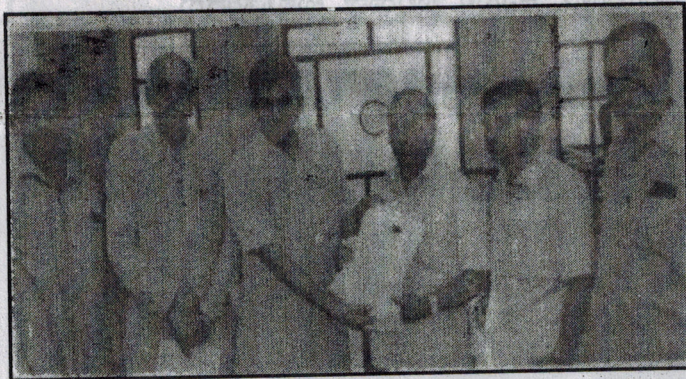


Don't Take Hasty Decision on on K'Rangan Report: Forums



Shimoga: The Vrikshalaksha Andolan, The Rural Community Science Centre, Sagar, The Sharavati Zonal Development Organisation and other forums urged the state government on Thursday not to take a unilateral decision on the Kasturirangan report. They also urged them not to yield to the Ministry of Forest and Environment's direction as it would be detrimental to people living in the region. Representatives of all organisations led by Andolan president Ananth Hegde Ashisara submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah through the DC and urged him not to take any hasty decisions on th eissue.

Before taking any decisions, the government should discuss it with organisations working for the protection of the Western Ghats, Tribals, farmers, elected representatives and other stake-holders they said.

In 2012-13, the state government had submitted its opinion on the reports of the Madhav Gadgil Committee and Kasturirangan Committee to the Centre. But now, it had created some confusion on the reports. The government should follow scientific guidelines to identify sensitive areas (villages) of the Western Ghats and correct lapses, they demanded.

There is a need to implement a special policy in order to protect the forest and biodiversity in the Western Ghats and the Chief Minister should consider all previous recommendations submitted by the Western Ghats Task Force.

Environmentalist Prof B.M. Kumaraswamy, Andolan convener B.H. Raghavendra, forest officer Haniya Ravi, Hakre Subbarao of Sharavathi Zonal Development Organisation and K. Venkatesh of Rural Community Science Centre were present.