

No. CD-14020/2/2001-Coord.DAI

Dated, the 20th March, 2001

To

The Secretaries, PWDs of all State Govts/U.Ts; Engineer-in-Chief/Chief Engineer of all State Govts/U.Ts (dealing with National Highways); Chairman, National Highways Authority of India; Director General Border Roads

Subject: Control of Parthenium Weed - regarding

A copy of DO letter No.20-26/2000.PP.I dated 17th August, 2000 from Shri P.D. Sudhakar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, which is self-explanatory is enclosed herewith. It is requested that necessary action for the control of this weed from National Highway land may please be taken at your end.

The action taken in this regard may please be intimated to this Ministry.

[Enclosure to Ministry's Circular No. CD-14020/2/2001-Coord. DAI dated 20th March, 2000 from the Jt. Secy. M/o Agriculture, Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation, New Delhi-110001]

D.O. No.20-26/2000.PP.I

Dated, the 17th August, 2000

Parthenium, a kind of toxic weed not of agricultural significance, is becoming problem in many parts of the country. The weed causes many health problems, like, bronchitis and asthma, skin irritation and contact dermatitis to the people allergic to it, thus, posing a great threat to the human health. It grows in the barren/vacant lands, railway tracks, around runways aircrafts, irrigation canals, grazing/uncultivable lands, etc.

2. The Project Dte. of Biological Control(PDBC), ICAR, Bangalore has informed that an exotic chrysomelid beetle, *Zygogramma biocolorata* is effective in biological suppression of parthenium. The beetles become active after the initiation of rains and defoliate the parthenium stands. The beetles once established keep reducing the parthenium population year after year.

3. Keeping in view the toxic nature of the said weed, its control is essential. I shall, therefore, request to initiate necessary action in consultation with PDBC, for the control of the weed.
