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"Cancel Eppawela project"

A prominent Environmental Group has urged the Government to cancel the Eppawala project, claiming that scientific studies have proved that the project will cause a major environmental hazard.

Senior Environmental Scientist Hemantha Withanage of the Environmental Foundation Limited says studies carried out by professional associations have published adverse reports about the project.

A report submitted by the National Science Foundation Committee on Eppawala

Phosphate approving the recommendation of the National Academy of Science of Sri Lanka asks the authorities to consider the environmental aspects seriously. It suggested that it is more feasible to produce Single Super Phosphate and Partially Acidulated Phosphate rock for Sri Lankan Agriculture.

It says granting monopoly status to foreign investors to sell Di-ammonium Phosphate to Sri Lanka goes against the country's interest because they can increase the

price at any time like the Shell company which has the monopoly for LP gas.

The Group has cautioned the government after it was revealed that the foreign company is facing a law suit. According to the 1998 annual report of the IMC Global, the main foreign company involved in the project, the company is entangled in a law suit with Canadian and American potash producers.

'Democracy is respecting the opinion of each other. When majority of the citizens

of the country is against, no democratic government can sign an agreement with a foreign partner to sell out the country. That is the responsibility given by the citizens to the government. Therefore we hope the government would respect such responsibilities,' Mr. Withanage says.