

ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION (PREVENTION & CONTROL) AUTHORITY
for the National Capital Region

Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman

EPCA-R/2019/L-52
October 31, 2019

Urgent directions regarding GRAP

Dear Sir,

This is further to directions issued on October 25, 2019 regarding measures to be implemented urgently, in view of the coming Diwali, adverse weather and crop burning period.

The air quality in the region, as you are aware, is still extremely severe. This is in light of the accumulated load of pollutants because of Diwali, combined with high contribution from stubble burning and very adverse weather conditions because of cyclonic activities, low wind and cloud cover. Therefore, there is a need for continued action to combat this extremely toxic pollution.

EPCA has received recommendations from the CPCB task force on this current situation last night. According to the task force, air quality is in severe category since October 29, 2019, 5 pm, which is likely to continue until October 31. High number of incidences of stubble burning have been reported from states of Punjab and Haryana which is delineated to have contributed approximately 25% of PM_{2.5} concentration on October 29, 2019. IMD has informed the task force that due to the cyclone in the Arabian sea, there were clouds over Delhi. North Westerly winds bringing in smoke from biomass burning coupled with low surface winds has resulted in rise in pollution levels. Winds will be slightly higher today and tomorrow and it is expected that from November 1, 2019, air pollution levels may come down to very poor category.

Given this situation, the Task Force has made the following recommendations to EPCA, which EPCA is directing for urgent compliance:

- 1) Coal-based industries (exemption to power plants) in NCR (Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Sonapat, Panipat, Bahadurgarh and Bhiwadi) and industries not using PNG in Delhi to **continue to remain closed till November 2, 2019**.
- 2) Construction activities like earthwork, which have potential to generate dust, hot mix plants, stone crushers not to operate between **6 pm to 10 am till November 2, 2019** in Delhi and satellite towns namely Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Sonapat and Bahadurgarh.
- 3) All implementing agencies to remain vigilant, intensify actions for controlling burning of waste, dust from C&D activities, road dust, and strictly enforce the law. Road dust must be controlled with multiple applications of water sprinkling or along with dust suppressants.
- 4) The states of Punjab and Haryana must take immediate stringent actions to curb stubble burning. Biomass burning in Delhi and other NCR towns must also be strictly checked.

Please ensure compliance with the above directions.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Bhure Lal,
Chairman, EPCA

To
Shri Vijay Kumar Dev, IAS
Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT Delhi

Copy to:

1. **Shri. Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment Government of NCT of Delhi.**
2. **Shri. Arun Mishra, Member Secretary Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) Government of NCT of Delhi.**

Central Pollution Control Board

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Near Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi 110 032
Tel/Fax: 22301955 (CPCB), Tel: 43102414 Dr. Bhure Lal, Chairman