

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

Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman

EPCA-R/2020/L-30
September 22, 2020

Dear Madam,

It has been brought to EPCA's notice that early burning of crop residue is taking place in Punjab.

According to a SAFAR estimate based on harmonizing the INSAT-3, 3D and NASA satellite, the fire counts were around 42 on 21st September 2020. Fire counts were around 20 on 20th September and Nil on 15th September. Though stubble burning started to appear in Punjab and neighboring border regions, its impact on Delhi AQI will be minimal for the next three days since the predominant winds are not supportive for transport and accumulation.

Therefore, while the impact on air pollution is minimal currently as the wind speeds are high and there is dispersion, the fact is that crop burning season has started and it needs to be urgently addressed as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The state government has to make all efforts to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court which has clearly specified that measures need to be taken from both in-situ as well as ex-situ stubble management so that the incidence of fire is minimized, if not completely eliminated. EPCA has been monitoring progress with you on the implementation of the different measures in this past two months and has also worked out the clear benchmarks and targets that need to be achieved before the coming season. We would now request that these steps are taken with urgency.

We recognise that we have lost time because of COVID-19, but given that the winter season is now fast approaching, we need to tackle this with urgency and ensure compliance.

Please take an urgent review of the actions that need to be taken as per these directions and ensure that there is implementation on ground and that the machines are procured and are available to farmers at affordable rates and with convenience.

We would also request you to set up a control room in which directions can be issued and actions taken both for ensuring that the machineries are within reach of the farmers as well ensuring enforcement of the non-compliance that is reported from the field.

Cont-2

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

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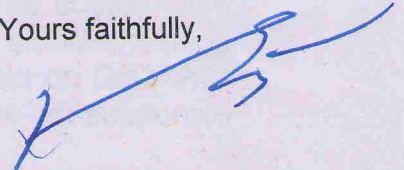
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EPCA will be submitting its report to the Supreme Court on the targets that are being set for the year as well as the urgent measures that the state governments need to take to combat stubble burning in the coming months.

We will look forward to your intervention and urgent oversight in this matter.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman, EPCA

To

Smt. Vini Mahajan, IAS
Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab

Copy to:

1. **Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab Department of Science, Technology & Environmnet**
2. **Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board**
3. **Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Contorl Baord**

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