

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

**Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman**

**EPCA-R/2019/L-59
November 18, 2019**

Urgent directions regarding GRAP

Dear Sir,

This is further to my urgent direction of November 13, 2019, regarding the measures that needed to be taken to combat the air emergency situation in Delhi-NCR.

EPCA has received the CPCB led Task Force review of the current air quality and their recommendations, which EPCA is directing is that **hot mix plant, ready mix plants, and stone crusher shall continue to remain closed**. Please note also that construction and demolition activity remains closed through the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The air in the region, as you can see, has finally improved after days of dense and highly hazardous smog. This is the result of the high winds and good ventilation index we have seen over the past few days. Today, it is projected that the air quality will improve further and most parts of NCR will see moderate air quality, which is a big relief.

However, IMD, has alerted us that the next few days – from Tuesday, November 19, 2019 to November 21, 2019 will have very little wind and ventilation. In this circumstance, dispersion of pollutants will not happen and there is a likelihood that we will slip back to the "Very Poor" category and even "Severe" category. The situation will be aggravated in case, there is rain, which is not adequate to wash away the pollutants, but instead adds to the moisture. We have seen in this past week, how increased moisture, which traps the pollutants and creates a cloud of haze over us, leads to a sharp deterioration of air quality.

It is for this reason, we have to step up our surveillance and enforcement of local sources of pollution and crop burning. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has already directed that all authorities must ensure that tough action is taken to combat pollution. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its direction of November 15, 2019, has directed "that Hot Spots should be cleared of pollutants within a week, which is the reasonable time-period suggested by the member secretary, CPCB." The Monitoring Committee has also worked with you to prepare action plans for each Hot Spot. We now have to ensure implementation and enforcement.

Please also note that SAFAR has just informed us that the wind direction is favourable for intrusion of stubble burning in this coming two days. If the burning of stubble is not checked and strictly enforced, then the contribution of stubble burning can increase to up to 13 per cent of the PM 2.5 pollutant on the 19th. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has already directed stern action on this and your personal attention is needed to ensure enforcement.

Please ensure compliance with the above directions

Yours Sincerely,


**Dr. Bhure Lal,
Chairman, EPCA**

To
**Shri. Karan Avtar Singh, IAS
Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab**

Copy to:

1. Shri. Rakesh Kumar Verma, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab Department of Science, Technology & Environment
2. Prof. Satwinder Singh Marwaha, Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board
3. Shri. Krunesh Garg, Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board

Central Pollution Control Board

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Tel/Fax: 22301955 (CPCB), Tel: 43102414 Dr. Bhure Lal, Chairman