

# **Minutes of Review Meeting with Public Agencies & SPCBs' On Delhi NCR Air Quality and Action Taken for Summer Season**

**May 03, 2018 at CPCB, Delhi**

Review meeting to discuss actions taken towards controlling air polluting activities in Delhi & NCR and preparedness for summer season was held at Parivesh Bhavan, CPCB, Delhi on May 03, 2018. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman, CPCB. List of participants is placed at Annexure-I.

Chairman, CPCB welcomed the participants and emphasized on need for proactive actions by concerned implementing agencies for maintaining air quality within acceptable limits during summer season, and with goal for better winter this year. He encouraged and appreciated efforts made by agencies and asked them to take stringent actions against violations. He also requested the participants to devise a self-monitoring mechanism to assess and document the actions taken & effectiveness on a regular basis for more realistic results, and setting example for other cities.

Dr. Prashant Gargava, AD & Head, AQM Division briefed the present status of air quality as more poor days than moderate this April. He informed that incidences of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana are reported, though the numbers are less than previous year, Directions of High Level Task Force (HLTF) regarding actions by municipal corporations of Delhi and various construction agencies of government to ensure proper utilisation of C&D waste, management of sanitary landfill to cut the fire emissions to zero in number, sprinkling of water along roads, etc. were appraised. Chairman, CPCB asked neighbouring towns to take similar actions as taken in Delhi.

Implementing agencies discussed the measures taken and also problems faced during implementation which are summarized below:

- i. Representatives from Municipal Corporations and State Boards briefed about various actions including water sprinkling, mechanical sweeping, door to door collection of waste, challans, etc. Problems in ground implementation due to lack of inter departmental coordination in road cutting activities, sweeping at parking areas, etc. were informed. Chairman suggested that a mechanism for

co-ordination among various agencies must be activated. North MCD informed that their plan for mechanised road sweeping & water sprinkling is put up on website. Gurugram Municipal Corporation has initiated door to door collection of household waste. Chairman appreciated the efforts and requested North MCD and Gurugram Municipal Corporation to share the details with CPCB.

- ii. Representative, Traffic Police Delhi informed that with operation of eastern and western Peripheral Expressways large good vehicles (trucks), will be diverted, which should bring down the traffic load and level of pollution in Delhi during this winter. He also informed about the drives initiated by traffic police to remove encroachment, a major reason that causes heavy traffic congestion. Chairman, CPCB appreciating the efforts suggested for simultaneous removal of debris of encroachment.
- iii. Representative, NHAI informed that to encourage people to use these expressways, NHAI initially may not charge any toll.
- iv. Agriculture departments of Delhi and NCR districts informed about measures to dissuade farmers from stubble burning such as subsidy to co-operative societies and custom hiring centre (CHCs), farmers interest groups or gram panchayats for providing such machines for “in-situ management” of crop residue. RO, SPCB Ghaziabad raised issue of creating mass awareness to remove misconception like burning increases soil fertility.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.