Review Meeting with implementing agencies in Delhi and NCR for dealing with air pollution on 03/12/2019

A meeting on the aforesaid subject was chaired by Chairman CPCB on 03.12.2019. List of participants is annexed.

I.T. Division CPCB presented status on redressal of complaints lodged through SAMEER App and social media. Status on resolution of complaints based on feedback by field staff of CPCB was also presented. It was informed that performance of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is not satisfactory as number of complaints yet to be resolved is relatively high. It was also observed that performance of DDA has been reported not satisfactory in previous review meetings also.

As regards other organisations, it was pointed out that there is further scope for improvement as timely action during this period would be of utmost important.

Divisional Heads AQM Division CPCB informed that air quality in Delhi and NCR during last week of November had improved on account of favourable metrological conditions. However, conditions are likely deteriorate with falling wind speed and mixing height, with cool air coming from north-west to north and temperatures going down further around dew point. Experience during last 3 years has been that months of December and January have seen a number of days in very severe category. Similar situation may emerge during the current year as well, unless timely and adequate field level preventive action is taken by implementing agencies.

Sh. N.K.Gupta Addl. Director CPCB pointed out that incidents of construction and demolition activities and open dumping of garbage are being reported in higher numbers from some parts of Delhi and also neighbouring towns such as Ghaziabad and Faridabad. Therefore, Municipal Corporations in these areas are required to pay greater attention to such polluting activities and take all necessary measures to check air pollution on account of such activities.

It was also pointed out that timely reporting of field actions by implementing agencies has not been available and that for want of such reporting, it has not been possible to make correct assessment of performance of agencies.

State Boards and implementing agencies present stated that they are taking measures to prevent all such activities which may cause air pollution and that they will make sure that efforts on ground are reported to CPCB for timely assessment of the situation.

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After due deliberations, the following points emerged;

- i. On a specific issue relating to jurisdiction of agencies for redressing air pollution due to unpaved road near Mukarwa, Bhalaswa landfill site, PWD was requested to given details of the same in writing to CPCB.
- ii. SPCBs/PCC in NCR were requested to provide information pertaining to number of industries, industry category, type of fuel used and quantity to CPCB.
- iii. In view of poor performance in redressing complaints in NCR region of Haryana, Chairman, Haryana SPCB may be requested to review the status with respective implementing agencies.
- iv. Representatives of North-MCD and EDMC were requested to look into high incidents of garbage dumping being reported in north and north-east regions in Delhi.
- v. Representative of DSIIDC was requested to provide details of actions proposed for addressing air pollution problems in non-conforming industrial areas.

It was emphasized to the implementing agencies that metrological conditions has already started turning adverse and that next few days may see substantial dip in air quality. Therefore, it is necessary that all regulations for checking air pollution are strictly enforced by implementing agencies. It was reiterated that there should be no letup in field level actions and state of very high alert should continue during entire December and January.

The agencies were also informed that non-performance shall call appropriate legal action against the concerned agency/ individual. Therefore, agencies are expected to have their own systems of robust monitoring and fixing accountability for action. Agencies were also request to ensure timely submission of reports to CPCB regarding action against polluting activities.

Meeting ended with thanks.
