

**Draft Minutes of the meeting on  
'Open Burning of Agriculture Crop Residue in Northern India' &  
'Action Taken by NCR States on Directions by CPCB on prevention, control or  
abatement of air pollution Delhi & NCR'**

Eighth review meeting to discuss actions taken in Delhi and NCR, particularly with reference to open burning, construction activities, dumping of waste, traffic congestion incidences reported by CPCB teams, and status of stubble burning was held at Parivesh Bhavan, Delhi on October 31, 2017. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman, CPCB. List of participants is attached at Annexure-I.

Chairman, CPCB welcomed the participants and complimented various agencies for their efforts and comparatively less polluted Dipawali and U-17 FIFA World Cup.

Dr. Prashant Gargava, Additional Director and Head, AQM Division appraised the issues for discussion and mentioned that October 2017 has more number of very poor air quality days in comparison to 2016. This necessitates a proactive approach by concerned agencies in controlling air polluting sources.

Mrs. Garima Sharma, Environmental Engineer made a brief presentation on air quality status and findings of field visits by CPCB officers during September and October 2017. It was informed that open dumping of waste, traffic congestion, open burning of waste, construction activity, open dumping of C&D waste, unpaved roads, open storage of construction material followed by road dust resuspension, polluting vehicle, industrial emission, DG set, etc. were most prominent polluting activities. Representatives of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi informed about actions taken, which are summarized below:

Haryana: Efforts made by Haryana included meetings with stakeholders and video conferencing with District Collectors, providing subsidies to farmers for the purchase of machines to incorporate the crop residues in the soil. Primary focus was on making the farmers aware on the positive attributes of utilization of stubble as nutrient.

Punjab: As per satellite monitoring data through Punjab Remote Sensing Centre, there was a reduction in stubble burning cases this year. Positive response was observed from the farmers. About 3 percent of the straw was used in the biomass plants.

Uttar Pradesh: The problem of road dust was strictly dealt with and ban imposed on unauthorised brick kilns.

Delhi: East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) imposed challans on open burning and open dumping of waste. Composting pits were made in all the parks for utilization of dry leaves. South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) organized zonal level trainings to sensitize employees on open burning of waste. North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North DMC) conducted regular mechanical sweeping. However, open garbage dumping and open garbage burning under unauthorised colonies are still a challenge. Further, water sprinkling is a problem due to scarcity of water. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) carries mechanical sweeping of the roads, imposes challans and creates awareness among the employees. It was informed that sanitary inspectors are empowered to make challans against defaulters for open burning. Officers may also be authorized, which would augment manpower.

Representative of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) informed that the feedback received from CPCB teams are forwarded to Municipal Corporation and other concerned agencies; however, no response on action taken received from them.

Following decisions were taken:

1. NCR States may constitute teams and conduct regular field inspections in all cities especially Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad, Gurugram etc. as a proactive measure. Immediate action may be taken on any report on waste burning.
2. Employees of Municipal Corporation may be sensitized on issues of initiated on open burning and open dumping of waste.
3. Concerned department of Delhi including DPCC, MCDs, Traffic Police are required to be on high alert as stubble burning is expected to subside by November 10, 2017 and local source contribution would become more prominent, especially in the event of inclement weather.
4. Traffic police and Transport department to take special steps to control and manage traffic at hot spots identified by CPCB teams.
5. DPCC may take up the issue of authorization of officers for challenging violation, as suggested by Municipal Corporations.
6. MCDs to make short term action plan for any unforeseen situation in the landfill sites.
7. Action taken report may be submitted to CPCB both for agriculture burning and actions taken on Directions issued by CPCB.

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**  
**'Open Burning of Agriculture Crop Residue in Northern India'**  
**&**  
**'Action Taken by NCR States on Directions by CPCB on prevention, control or abatement of air pollution Delhi & NCR'**

Dated: 31.10.2017

Time: 02.30 PM

Venue: 2nd Floor, Conference Hall, CPCB, Delhi

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