Minutes of Fifty Fourth Meeting of Task Force on Graded Response Action Plan held on November 04, 2019 at CPCB, Delhi

Fifty fourth meeting of the Task Force was convened at 14:00 hours on November 4, 2019 at CPCB. Meeting was chaired by the Member Secretary, CPCB. List of participants is annexed (Annexure I).

Member Secretary apprised about the current air quality situation and requested Dr. V.K. Soni, IMD for further inputs. Dr. V.K. Soni informed that Severe+ situation should get over by today evening i.e. November 4, 2019 and further improvement is expected in view of higher winds (20-25 Km/hr). IMD also informed that on November 6, 2019 due to Westerly Disturbance, there might be light rain resulting in high moisture and low wind speed. The wind direction on November 5, 2019 is likely to be North Westerly which will change to South Westerly on November 6, 2019. Due to this, particulate matter concentration will again increase but is not likely to reach Severe+ condition. Strong winds are also predicted on November 8, 9, and 10, 2019.

In the view of current situation, it was agreed by the Task Force to review the status again on November 5, 2019.

Subsequently, Ms. Sunita Narain telephoned MS, CPCB informing that Hon'ble Supreme Court has banned all Construction activities till further order and that the Task Force and EPCA should take a view regarding ban of industrial activities. Therefore, a meeting was again convened at 17:30 hours on November 4, 2019. Dr. V. K. Soni, India Meteorological Department, Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Sh. Praveen Kumar, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Sh. Vivek Goel, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Sh. Sohan Lal, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Sh. Utsav Sharma, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Sh. Vijay Chaudhary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board joined through tele/video- conferencing.

In view of prediction of IMD regarding light rain on November 6, 2019, likely increase in the moisture content and rise in particulate matter concentration, the Task Force recommends continuity of ban of industrial activities i.e. coal based industries (exemption to power plants) in NCR namely Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Sonepat, and Bahadurgarh and non-PNG industries till November 8, 2019. Hot mix plants, and stone crushers may also remain closed till November 8, 2019.

List of Participants:

- 1. Sh. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board
- 2. Sh. N.K. Gupta, Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board
- 3. Sh. Sharandeep Singh, Scientist 'D', Central Pollution Control Board
- 4. Dr. M.P. George, Scientist, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (video conferencing)
- 5. Dr. V. K. Soni, Scientist 'E', India Meteorological Department (video conferencing)
- 6. Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, RO Noida, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
- 7. Sh. Praveen Kumar, EE, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
- 8. Sh. Vivek Goel. RO, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, RO, Bhiwadi
- 9. Sh. Sohan Lal, JSO, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Bhiwadi
- 10. Sh. Utsav Sharma, RO Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
- 11. Sh. Vijay Chaudhary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (video conferencing)