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Environment Ministry Notifies Graded Response Action Plan to Combat Air Pollution in NCR (Download PDF)

(January 11, 2019)

Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified Graded Response Action Plan to combat air pollution in NCR Delhi region. MoEFCC amended laws & formally tasked SC-appointed panel w/ implementing graded action plan for pollution control.

A RACE AGAINST TIME CENTRE'S COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN FOR NCR WITH DEADLINES

The infographic is divided into several sections, each with an icon and a list of actions:

- AIR QUALITY MONITORING**
 - ▶ Setting up of 20 air quality monitoring stations - **Done**
 - ▶ NCR-wide air quality monitoring - **In process**
 - ▶ Satellite-based monitoring of stubble burning - During crop burning season
 - ▶ Research studies like air quality source apportionment - **Ongoing**
- VEHICULAR EMISSIONS**
 - ▶ Ensure BS-VI implementation: **2020**
 - ▶ Charge 1% on registration of diesel vehicles 2000cc and above - Decision pending in court
 - ▶ Expand CNG programme across NCR - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Introduce battery operated vehicles - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Install vapour recovery systems at refuelling outlets - **May 2018**
- ON-ROAD VEHICLES**
 - ▶ Tighten PUC norms - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Link PUC certificates with annual vehicle insurance - **Done**
- POWER PLANTS AND INDUSTRIES**
 - ▶ Permanent closure of Badarpur power plant - **Mid-2018** (likely to be done this month)
 - ▶ Move to cleaner gas-based Bawana station - **Immediate**
 - ▶ Progressively close older and polluting thermal plants - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Ban on furnace oil and petcoke - **Done**
 - ▶ Enforce against illegal fuels and pollution control norms - **Ongoing**
- ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION DUST**
 - ▶ Implement street designs with adequate vegetation buffer - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Increase green cover - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Implement truckloading guidelines - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Use water spray - **Immediate**
- OPEN BURNING AND CROP BURNING**
 - ▶ Implementing ban on garbage burning - **Immediate**
 - ▶ Ensuring proper collection of waste - **Immediate**
 - ▶ Implement citizen reporting app - **Done**
 - ▶ Increase subsidies to prevent stubble burning - **Ongoing**
- BRICK KILNS**
 - ▶ Convert to zig-zag technology - **Done**
- GENSETS**
 - ▶ Ensure only those DG sets that meet standards are allowed - **Ongoing**
 - ▶ Regulate usage according to GRAP - **Ongoing**
- DOMESTIC CHULHA AND OPEN EATERIES**
 - ▶ Improve access to LPG and electricity - **Immediate**
 - ▶ Prohibit usage of coal in hotels and restaurants - **Immediate**

Image of MoEFCC Amended Laws and Formally

Key Facts of Graded Response Action Plan

- Graded Response Action Plan defines measures to be taken based on air quality on basis of PM 2.5 & PM 10 in atmosphere.
- Based on air quality grades are classified as Emergency, Severe, Very Poor & Moderate poor. It will be enforced by Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA).
- Under this plan emergency measures will be automatically enforced in NCR if level of PM_{2.5} breaches 300 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) & PM₁₀ levels stay above 500 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for 2 consecutive days.

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- Plan recommends measures like odd-even car rationing scheme & ban on construction activities to combat air pollution.
- During 'very poor' air quality, it recommends banning diesel generators & parking fee increased by 3 - 4 times.
- It lists number of other measures such as closing brick kilns, stone crushers, hot mix plants & intensifying public transport services & increasing frequency of mechanized cleaning & sprinkling of water on roads.
- For enforcement of action plan, Govt. has assigned task of implementation of Graded Response Action Plan to EPCA (Environment Pollution Control Authority) in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986).

Image of Air Pollution

Background of Action Plan

- Delhi specific comprehensive action plan was prepared by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) & was submitted to SC in December 2016.
- Court had accepted plan & asked Union Govt. to notify it.
- **Particulate Matter (PM):** They are tiny particles of dust which can cause very serious respiratory disorders & even damage lungs.

Central Pollution Control Board

- Formed in – 1974
- Functions:

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- Advise Central Govt. on any matter concerning prevention & control of water & air pollution & improvement of quality of air.
- Plan & cause to be executed nation-wide program for prevention, control or abatement of water & air pollution;
- Co-ordinate activities of State Board & resolve disputes among them;
- Plan & organise training of persons engaged in programme on prevention, control or abatement of water & air pollution;
- Organise thru mass media, comprehensive mass awareness programme on prevention, control or abatement of water & air pollution;
- Disseminate information in respect of matters relating to water and air pollution and their prevention and control;
- Perform such other function as may be prescribed by the Government of India.

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