

**Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Sh. Kamaldeep Singh Sangha, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar on 20/11/2018 at 11:00 am at Meeting Hall, Zila Parishad Complex, Amritsar regarding action plan for abatement of air pollution in Amritsar City.**

**Followings were present:-**

1. Sh. Nitish Singla, PCS, Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar
2. Sh. Dalbir Singh Chinna, Chief Agriculture Officer, Amritsar
3. Sh. YPS Jadon, Project Director, NHAI, Jalandhar
4. Er. MK Chawla, Executive Engineer, PWSSB, Amritsar
5. Sh. Dilbagh Singh, ADCP (Traffic), Amritsar
6. Sh. Manoj Kumar, DGM, NHAI, Amritsar – Pathankot Road
7. Er. Kamaljit Singh, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Amritsar
8. Er. Sukhdev Singh, Asstt. Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Amritsar
9. Sh. Tajinder Singh, Agriculture Officer, Amritsar
10. Er. DP Sahota, AEE, PSPCL, City circle, Amritsar
11. Sh. Himanshu Kumar, DFSO, Amritsar
12. Sh. Pawan Kumar, Steno, Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar

At the outset, the Asstt. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar welcomed the officers present during the meeting on the behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar. He informed that in year 2014, a report was published by WHO about the most polluted cities of the World in terms of Air pollution. A meeting of High Level Task Force (HLTF) was conducted in PMO and while addressing the issue of Air Quality in Delhi and NCR, it was decided to prepare action plans to control the Air Pollution for cities of the most polluted category, in which Amritsar city was also included. Accordingly, an action plan of Amritsar has been prepared and approved by the competent authority, in which following departments are responsible agencies for performing various tasks to curb the menace of Air Pollution:-

- 1) Traffic Police, Amritsar.
- 2) Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.
- 3) Food & Civil Supplies Department, Amritsar.
- 4) Public Works Department, Amritsar.
- 5) Department of Agriculture, Amritsar.
- 6) Revenue Department, Amritsar.
- 7) Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Amritsar.
- 8) Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar.
- 9) Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, Amritsar.
- 10) Punjab Pollution Control Board, Amritsar.
- 11) National Highway Authority India, Amritsar.
- 12) Improvement Trust, Amritsar.

He further added that as per instructions received from Head Office, Patiala, a committee of the officers of concerned departments is to be constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar for the submission of progress of activities to the CPCB in every six month.

During meeting, the Chairman asked ADCP (Traffic), Amritsar regarding no. of challans issued to the violating vehicles, which are not parked at designated parking sites. The ADCP (Traffic) told that they are continuously challaning the vehicles which violate parking and traffic Rules. The Chairman told him to act strictly against the violators. ADCP (Traffic) demanded to designate the halting stations of Auto Rickshwas. After deliberate discussion on the issue of generation of Air Pollution due to vehicles and its control, the Chairman constituted a committee comprising of Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar, ADCP (Traffic), Amritsar, Executive Engineer, PWD (B&R), Amritsar and one member from BRTS Project, Amritsar and directed them to submit a comprehensive plan within 01 week on following issues:

- a) For smooth movement of traffic in Amritsar city.
- b) Number / locations of parking spaces required.
- c) Identification of Auto Rickshaw halting points.
- d) Monitoring of traffic lights at various junctions of the cities.
- e) Identification of points where movement of traffic is restricted.
- f) Repairing and maintenance of roads and port holes.

The Chairman suggested that the committee can invite special invitee from any reputed NGO for availing services regarding submission of above said comprehensive plan.

The Chairman further directed Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar to submit report regarding permits and other paper works required for the movement of auto rickshaws in the light of orders passed by Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court. The Chairman informed that the NOCs have been issued to three no. CNG stations in Amritsar city.

The Chairman asked DFSO, Amritsar regarding progress made by their department for checking of adulteration in fuel at the petrol pumps. The DFSO, Amritsar told that the checking of adulteration in fuel is a regular practice and no such incident of mixing of Kerosene is found. The Chairman directed DFSO, Amritsar to continue the checking of adulteration.

The Chairman expressed his concern over the problem of re-suspension of dust arising due to construction activities of roads/bypasses. He suggested that side roads should be properly strengthened during construction phase and directed Project Director, NHAI, Jalandhar to make proper plan for preventing re-suspension of dust and implement same in a true letter and spirit since this problem is one of the major contributor of Air Pollution. Sh. YPS Jadon, Project Director, NHAI, Jalandhar assured

that the preventive measures shall be taken for controlling air pollution due to re-suspension of dust at the Ram Tirath Road flyover as well as G.T. Road and other areas.

The Chairman asked Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar regarding number of challans issued regarding burning of bio-mass, Garbage, leaves etc. Sh. Nitish Singla, PCS, Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar told that the challans have been issued to the violators for burning of municipal solid waste and will be continue as our regular practice. The Chairman directed Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar to prepare a plan for collection of horticulture waste and continue to issue challans for burning of municipal solid waste and submit the report accordingly.

The Chairman asked Chief Agriculture Officer, Amritsar about the activities carried out by the department to control the crop residue burning in the district. Dr. Dalbir Singh Chhina, Chief Agriculture Officer, Amritsar handed over a progress report regarding the no. of awareness camps and campaigns organized by their department at different levels.

The Asstt. Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Amritsar informed that there are 226 nos. Brick Kilns falling under the jurisdiction of District Amritsar, out of which 65 nos. have adopted Induced Draft Zig Zag Technology in place of natural draft technology for controlling air pollution and board has time framed for the brick kilns to convert the brick kilns into new Induced Draft Zig Zig Technology. He also added that as per directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, the Brick Kilns will remain close w.e.f. October to January every year. He further informed that one no. CAAQMS is installed at Golden Temple, Amritsar for monitoring ambient air quality and apart from that two no. Respirable Dust Samplers have been installed in Amritsar city for monitoring ambient air quality. He told that the Air Quality Index (AQI) and other parameters are at Satisfactory and Moderate level throughout the calendar year even in the stubble burning period and Diwali Festival time the AQI is significantly below than the last years levels for Amritsar city. He also informed that air emission samples of air polluting industries are regularly being collected and action against violators is taken, if the parameters are found beyond the prescribed limits.

He further mentioned that as per the decisions of Hon'ble High Court in CWP no. 3773 of 2011 titled as Court On its Own Motion Vs State of Punjab and Others regarding air pollution in and around golden temple, a meeting under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar is being regularly held in which progress of 02 nos. activities i.e. uninterrupted power supply in and around Golden Temple and installation of hi-tech kitchen in Golden Temple are monitored. He informed that these two activities are also included in the action plan of Amritsar city.

The Chairman has taken a serious view of the officers who have not attended the meeting and directed to recall the meeting of the absentees so that the issues related to their respected departments could be discussed.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

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