



Punjab Pollution Control Board

Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala

Phone no.2215793

No. 128

Date: 7/2/2018

DIRECTIONS

Punjab Pollution Control Board has considered the matter relating to the indiscriminate burning of left over paddy straw / stubble in the open fields in the State and it has been observed that indiscriminate burning of said left over straw/stubble in open fields after the harvesting of paddy crops is causing wide spread pollution in the State of Punjab resulting in various kinds of environmental as well as health related problems.

Whereas, the Government of Punjab in consultation with Punjab State Pollution Control Board has declared whole of the State of Punjab as Air Pollution Control area under section 19 (1) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide Notification no. S.O. 21 /C.A. 14/81/S. 19/88 dated 2/3/1988, for the purposes of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

And whereas, in order to curb the menace of stubble burning during post harvesting season in the State, the Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment has issued Notification bearing No. 3/162/2006-STE(4)/946 dated 22.10.2013 under the provisions of Section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, thereby prohibiting the indiscriminate burning of left over paddy and wheat straw/stubble in the whole State of Punjab.

And whereas, the Principal Bench of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in Application No. 118 of 2013 had ordered on 10.12.2015 prohibiting the agricultural residue burning in NCR region including Punjab.

And whereas, the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana has recommended that Super Straw Management System (Super SMS) be attached to self-propelled combine harvesters, which cuts the paddy straw coming out of harvester combine into small pieces as well as spreads the same. With this method of harvesting, the farmers are not required to burn the paddy straw, before sowing the next crop.

And whereas, the Board is empowered under section 23 clause (2) to undertake remedial measures to mitigate the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere and the Board in the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions is also empowered to issue directions in writing under section 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to any person officer or authority and such person officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions.

And whereas, the Board has considered the whole matter and is satisfied that the attachment of Super Straw Management System with the self-propelled combine harvesters in the State, as recommended by the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana shall contain the cause of air pollution arising from the burning of paddy straw by the farmers in open fields, to a large extent.

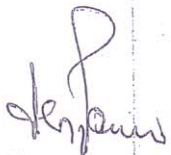
And whereas, the Board had issued and published the draft directions under section 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 30.12.2017 in various newspapers thereby inviting objections and suggestions for making the use of Super Straw Management System for harvesting paddy crop mandatory with the harvester combines in the State of Punjab and had also considered the objections and suggestions received thereafter.

Now, therefore, taking into consideration, the problem of paddy stubble burning in the State of Punjab and its adverse impact on environment and the recommendations of the Punjab Agricultural University, I K.S. Pannu, IAS, Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board exercising the powers under Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 do hereby, issue the following directions:

- a) That the owners of combine harvesters desirous of undertaking the harvesting of paddy in the State of Punjab shall attach Super Straw Management System with the harvester combine.
- b) That no harvester combine shall be allowed to harvest paddy in the State of Punjab without functional Super Straw Management System.

Patiala

Dated: 05.02.2018


(Kahan Singh Pannu, IAS)
Chairman

Endst. No. 4036-41

Dated: 07.02.2018

A copy of the above order is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action please:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Government of Punjab, Department of Agriculture, Chandigarh.
2. Director of Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh.
3. The Director, Department of Information and Public Relation, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
4. All Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab.
5. All the District Chief Agricultural Officers in the State of Punjab.
6. All the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Offices with the request that this advisory be brought to the notice of owners of all self-propelled combine harvesters.

Sd/-
Administrative Officer
For Chairman

Endst. No. 9446-47

Dated 23/3/18

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action please.

- ✓ 1. The Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Transport, Punjab Civil Secretariat-2, Chandigarh.
- ✓ 2. The State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, SCO 177-78, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Floor, 17G, 17C, Sector 17, Chandigarh, 160017.

Amrik Singh
e/c Administrative Officer
For Chairman