

Minutes of the Meeting of Environment Pollution (Prevention &Control) Authority for the NCR (EPCA) held on January 23, 2016 (Saturday) from 11:00 am onwards
(at the office of 'Centre for Science and Environment', India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi)

Agenda: Status of action taken by the different stakeholders on the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide orders dated October 9, 2015, December 16, 2015 and January 5, 2016.

In attendance:

1. Dr. Bhure Lal, Chairman, EPCA
2. Ms. Sunita Narain, Member, EPCA
3. Mr. K. Ravinder Naik, Transport Commissioner, UP
4. Mr. R.K. Upadhyay, Addl. Transport Commissioner, Meerut zone
5. Ms. Suprabha Dahiya, Transport Commissioner, Haryana
6. Mr. Virender Lather, Addl. Transport Commissioner, Haryana
7. Ms. Gayatri Rathore, Transports commission, Rajasthan
8. Mr. Pradeep Vyas, AGDP (Traffic)
9. Mr. Kailash Bishnoi, SP, Alwar
10. Mr. Bharat Lal Meena, Addl. SP, Bharatpur
11. Mr. Rajesh Sharma, RTO, Alwar
12. Mr. R.N. Yadav, SP (Traffic), Noida
13. Mr. Yogesh Pratap, DC (Transport), Delhi
14. Mr. S.K. Dixit, iVALUE
15. Mr. Mukol Roongta, iVALUE
16. Mr. Anand Tiwari, Joint Commissioner (Transport), GNCTD
17. Mr. Ankur Garg, Spl. Commissioner (Transport), Delhi
18. Mr. Sibash Kabiraj, DIG (Traffic & Highways), Haryana
19. Mr. B.K. Gupta, Deputy Transport Commissioner, Meerut zone
20. Mr. Mayank Jyoti, RTO, Ghaziabad

The action taken on the following directions by the Hon'ble Supreme Court discussed during the meeting.

A. Ban on registration of 2000CC+ diesel cars:

EPCA has asked the Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan governments to furnish the copies of notifications issued by these governments to comply with direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order.

Also asked the state governments in NCR regions to furnish details of number of licenses issued to diesel SUV's having engine size more than 2000 CC's between November 16, 2015 to December 16, 2015 and from December 17, 2015 onwards.

EPCA noted the news published in The Economic Times and Business Standard that Mahindra & Mahindra Motors to circumventing the Hon'ble Supreme Court order have launched SUVs with the downsized diesel engine of 1.99 liter with immediate effect in the National Capital Region (NCR). EPCA has asked the state transport departments to keep track of vehicles which are coming for registration with engine size 1.99 litres and provide the details to EPCA.

B. Taxis in NCR to run on CNG from April 1, 2016 and availability of CNG:

EPCA noted that in Haryana, there was no category of city taxis, and all taxi services are registered under the All-India Transport Permit. Transport Commissioners of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh confirmed that no such categorization exists. EPCA then asked the Assistant Transport Commissioner, Delhi to clarify the different categories of taxis running in Delhi. The Assistant Transport Commissioner, Delhi clarified on these categories and stated that the existing "city taxi scheme" has combined earlier categories of radio taxis and economy radio taxi, and has also taken into account the On-Demand-Taxi-Transportation-Aggregators (ODTTA) guidelines issued by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH). EPCA, with help from the Delhi Transportation Department will study the "City Taxi Scheme" rolled out by the govt. of NCT Delhi, and produce a guidance note on the categorization of taxis, including licensing, fuel use, scope of operations, fare pricing and aggregator models. EPCA will also issue a letter to the Chief Secretaries of Governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan, copied to their respective transportation commissioners, expressing the need for a common NCR wide NCR-city taxi permit rules., (Delhi's "City Taxi Scheme", Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan rules on this issue to be attached).

In districts of National Capital Region apart from Delhi, where CNG is available, i.e. Sonepat, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Panipat in Haryana; Meerut, Ghaziabad (including Hapur) and Gautam Buddha Nagar (including NOIDA and Greater Noida) in Uttar Pradesh, EPCA directs all the concerned transportation commissioners to ensure that all taxis have to run on CNG only from April 1, 2016 onwards, as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated January 1, 2016. With regard to the other districts, i.e. Palwal, Rohtak, Rewari, Jhajjar, Mewat, Baghpat and Alwar, EPCA will follow-up with MoPNG on the availability of CNG supply.

EPCA also noted that there is a difference in the VAT applied on CNG sales across Delhi and other states in NCR. In Haryana, it is 13% and in UP it is 25%, whereas it is 0% in Delhi. This makes CNG prices unequal and there is heavy traffic across state borders to take advantage of this difference. EPCA notes that there is a need for a NCR wide common taxation policy for all fuels, including Diesel and CNG. EPCA will also

issue a letter to the chief secretaries of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to consider such a policy and discuss it further.

C. Diversion of Non-Destined Traffic:

Haryana government has submitted the list of all locations from where the diversion has to be done as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 05-01-2016. The UP government has not submitted anything related to the diversion of vehicles. EPCA has asked UP government to submit the location to EPCA within one week. EPCA has also asked UP and Haryana government to submit data on the number of trucks that they have diverted and also the alternative routes available to bypass Delhi for the commercial vehicles and the agencies responsible for the maintenance of the roads.