

ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION (PREVENTION & CONTROL) AUTHORITY
for the National Capital Region

Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman

EPCA-R/2020/L-33
September 30, 2020

Dear Madam,

This is further to my letter of September 22, 2020 on the early burning of crop residue in the state and the need for ensuring implementation and enforcement of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. I am in receipt of your letter of September 23, 2020 on the steps being taken by the state to control farm fires and have noted that you will take all steps to ensure compliance.

Needless to say, this is an issue of concern as it will exacerbate the problem of air pollution in the region and in this time of COVID-19 will add to co-morbidity challenges.

I am sending you our report on this issue, which EPCA has submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its consideration at the hearing on this matter.

I am also bringing to your attention the need to ensure that small and marginal farmers have access to the machines, which have been provided to the CHC's at affordable/free rates.

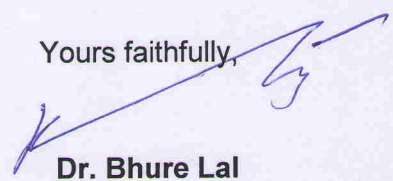
We understand that **Punjab has directed on 14.8.2020 that as government has provided 80 per cent subsidy for machines for crop residue management, it is to be ensured that these machines are available to small and marginal farmers on priority basis and that these farmers will be charged on operational cost and no rental for the machines. We have also been told that the operational charges include source of power and operator wages etc, but not the cost of capital.**

However, this leaves the issue very ambiguous and possibly open to misuse. The rate for rental, which is being waived off is not apparent; the cost of operation is also not laid down. We would urge you to ensure that this is done and done so that small and marginal farmers have access at affordable/free cost. We would also request you to make sure that this is given wide publicity so that farmers have information and assurance of this.

Please inform us of the decision that you will take in this matter at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,


Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman, EPCA

To
Smt. Vini Mahajan, IAS
Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab

Copy to:

1. **Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab Department of Science, Technology & Environment**
2. **Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board**
3. **Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board**

Central Pollution Control Board

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Tel/Fax: 22301955 (CPCB), Tel: 43102414 Dr. Bhure Lal, Chairman