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KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ., തിരുവനന്തപുരം - 695 004



KSPCB/135/2023-CEE

Date: 23.01.2025.

SPEED POST

From

The Member Secretary

To

The Member Secretary,
Central Pollution Control Board,
Parivesh Bhavan, East Arjun Nagar
Delhi -110032

Sub: Submission of State Action Plan of Kerala on Air Quality in O.A. 159/2021.

- Ref: 1. Order dated 11.12.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A. 159/2021.
2. Minutes of the Air Quality Monitoring Committee held on 18.11.2024 and 07.01.2025.
3. The Steering Committee meeting held on 18.01.2025.

Sir,

Kind attention is invited to the subject matter. As per the order of the Hon'ble NGT dated 11.12.2024 in OA 159/2021, it was directed to get the approval of the State Action Plan (SAP) from the steering committee and forward the same to CPCB before 31.01.2025. The State Action Plan of Kerala on Air Quality was finalized by the Air Quality Monitoring Committee in the meeting held on 18.11.2024 and 07.01.2025 and recommended to place the same before the Steering Committee. A copy of each of the minutes of each meeting are submitted herewith. The SAP was approved by the Steering Committee in the meeting held on 18.01.2025. The approved State Action Plan of Kerala on Air Quality is submitted herewith for your kind information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully

Shwari

MEMBER SECRETARY

Copy to:

1. Secretary to Government, (with covering letter)
Environment Department,
Government Secretariat.

Minutes

Agenda : Hon'ble NGT (SZ)OA 159/2021 regarding the failure of CPCB to formulate State Action Plan for Air Pollution as envisaged by the National Clean Air Program - The 1st meeting of the Air Quality Monitoring Committee.

Chair : Secretary, Environment Department

Time / Date : 4.00 PM / 18.11.2024 through on line mode

Participants

1. Sri. Suneel Pamidi IFS, Director of Environment and Climate Change.
2. Sri. L.T. Santhosh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Environment Department.
3. Dr. Sheela. A.M, Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
4. Members of Air Quality Monitoring Committee.
5. Er. Bindhu Radhakrishnan, Chief Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
6. Er. Simi P, Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
7. Sri. Unnikuttan.S.S, Under Secretary, Environment Department.

This is the 1st meeting of the Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) in which, the Secretary, Environment Department welcomed all the members of the AQMC to the meeting.

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board apprised the Committee regarding the State Action Plan (SAP) as follows;

Original Application No. O.A. 159 of 2021 was filed by Sri.Kankana Das, Kolkata before the Hon'ble NGT regarding the implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) which was launched by MoEF&CC in 2019, in the States of Telangana, Tamilnadu & Karnataka. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched NCAP in 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 131 non-attainment cities in 24 States/UTs by engaging all stakeholders.

The Hon'ble NGT had Suo Moto impleaded the State of Kerala as respondent as per the order dated 20.01.2023, in O.A.No.159/2021. As per the Order dated 15.03.2023 in O.A.No.159/2021, the Hon'ble NGT has directed that a State ActionPlan (SAP) on air pollution shall be prepared and forwarded to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The CPCB had provided a template for the SAP. The same was circulated among the Departments concerned and the draft SAP was forwarded to CPCB by the Environment Department on 13.04.2024 and again the SAP was further revised based on suggestions of CPCB. Then, as per order dated 17.10.2023, the updated SAP of Kerala was forwarded to CPCB on 02.11.2023. The SAP was again modified asper the suggestion of CPCB on 12.12.2023 and modified SAP was sent to CPCB on 19.01.2024.

As per the NGT Order dated 09.05.2024, CPCB had issued common guidelines for preparation of the State Action Plan (SAP) based on the indicative template shared by the MoEF&CC. As per the common guidelines, an Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) under the Chair of the Secretary, Environment Department shall be constituted for the preparation of the SAP and the SAP shall be approved by the Steering Committee under the Chair of the Chief Secretary. Accordingly, the AQMC and Steering Committee were constituted as per G.O. (Rt) No.84/2024/ENVT dated 26.10.2024. AQMC shall monitor the implementation of the SAP and report to the Steering Committee which shall periodically review the progress of implementation and give necessary guidance to the AQMC.

The State Action Plan involves action on 7 factors viz industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, emissions of burning of waste, municipal solid waste management, construction & demolition waste and road dust management, house hold emissions and emissions due to burning of agro residues. There are action

points under each of these above components are specified by the CPCB as per the direction of Hon'ble NGT. Action points in the SAP were discussed briefly.

The Director, DoECC enquired regarding the most problematic air pollutant of Kerala. Member Secretary informed that KSPCB had established a network of 39 manual air quality monitoring stations and 9 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations and the air quality of Kerala falls within good to moderate range, Particulate Matter concentrations are showing increasing trend. The Secretary, Env't. Dept. asked regarding the sectors causing the major pollution problem. The Member Secretary replied that the problems happening nearby the industrial clusters in Ernakulam. However vehicular emissions, waste burning are other sources of pollution. Regarding solid waste management, considerable progress has been achieved in providing waste collection facilities like MCF, MRF, disposal of non recyclables in cement plant, etc., improvement in air quality. Emission inventory is also prepared. The Member Secretary added that it is proposed to conduct source apportionment study in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi for identification and quantification of the different sources and types of pollutants as per NGT Order in OA 259/2017 and re-tendering process is being done. There are no critically polluted areas identified in Kerala by CPCB.

The Secretary, Environment enquired about the expected outcome of the State Action Plan. The Chief Environmental Engineer, KSPCB replied that the NCAP was launched by the Central Ministry with an aim to tackle the air pollution problem and envisaged to attain 40% reduction in the PM levels by 2025-2026 and the action plan aims to achieve these results. KSPCB had established a network of 39 manual air quality monitoring stations for covering all the districts of Kerala and there are 9 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations across 6 districts. As per the monitoring data, particulate matter, i.e., PM_{2.5} is the prominent

polluting parameter that requires specific attention. The Chief Environmental Engineer added that even though the air quality of Kerala is not affected in the present scenario and is not having any non-attainment cities (NAC), effective steps are to be taken to maintain proper air quality. As air pollution is a trans-boundary phenomenon, the emissions from the neighboring States might also affect the air quality and that is the reason why Kerala and Puducherry were implicated in this case. Environmental Engineer (IT & Project section), KSPCB suggested identification of local hot spots of air pollution such as brick kilns, cashew factories etc. and implementing action plans specific to such areas. The Secretary, Environment suggested to evaluate the overall status of air pollution in Kerala and update the action plan including innovative actions taken by various Departments. The Director, DoECC suggested to evaluate the current air quality with respect to various parameters monitored and the air quality to be achieved and include in the State Action Plan accordingly. The official from NATPAC informed that they are implementing certain innovative methods.

The Secretary, Environment directed the Implementing Agencies to update the details pertaining to their respective Departments in the google spreadsheet within 2 days. The current status shall be evaluated prior to presenting the State Action Plan before the Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary.

The meeting concluded at 5pm.

DR RATHAN U KELKAR I A
SECRETARY



Minutes

Agenda : Hon'ble NGT (SZ)OA 159/2021 regarding the failure of CPCB to formulate State Action Plan for Air Pollution as envisaged by the National Clean Air Program - The 2nd meeting of the Air Quality Monitoring Committee.

Chair : Secretary, Environment Department

Time / Date : 4.00 PM / 07.01.2025 through on line mode

Participants

Sri. L.T. Santhosh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Environment Department.

Dr. Sheela. A.M, Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.

Members of Air Quality Monitoring Committee.

Er. Bindhu Radhakrishnan, Chief Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.

Er. Simi P, Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.

Sri. Unnikuttan.S.S, Under Secretary, Environment Department.

The 2nd meeting of the Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) commenced on 07.01.2025 at 4 pm through VC. The Secretary, Environment Department welcomed all the members of the AQMC to the meeting.

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) appraised the committee regarding the status of State Action Plan on Air Quality (SAP) as follows; The Hon'ble NGT had Suo Moto impleaded the State of Kerala as respondent as per the order dated 20.01.2023, in O.A. no. 159/2021. As per the Order dated 15.03.2023 in O.A. no. 159/2021, the Hon'ble NGT has directed that a SAP on air pollution shall be prepared and forwarded to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The CPCB had provided a template for the SAP. The same was circulated among the departments concerned and the draft SAP was forwarded to CPCB by the Environment Department. As per the suggestions received from CPCB, the SAP was further revised. In the Order dated 17.10.2023, it was directed to file response on the observations of CPCB. Accordingly, the updated SAP of Kerala was forwarded to CPCB on 02.11.2023. As per mail dated 12.12.2023, CPCB had made certain

observations in the revised SAP of Kerala. The SAP modified based on the said observations was forwarded to CPCB on 19.01.2024. As per the NGT Order dated 09.05.2024, CPCB had issued common guidelines for preparation of the SAP based on the indicative template shared by the MoEF&CC. As per the common guidelines, an Air Quality Monitoring Committee under the Chair of the Secretary, Environment Department shall be constituted for the preparation of the SAP and the SAP shall be approved by the Steering Committee under the Chair of the Chief Secretary. Accordingly, the AQMC and Steering Committee were constituted as per G.O. (Rt) No. 84/2024/ENVT dated 26.10.2024. As per the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 11.12.2024, it is directed to get the approval of the SAP from the steering committee and forward the same to CPCB before 31.01.2025, failing which, the same will be accepted by CPCB only on payment of Rs. 1,00,000/-

In the 1st AQMC meeting held on 18.11.2024 it was suggested that some details namely status of gas distribution pipelines, present status of Air Quality in the Status and suggestions of NATPAC are to be added in the SAP. The actions as well as timelines of the city gas distribution pipeline were incorporated in the SAP. The status on Air Quality with respect to the parameters monitored is added in the report on State Action Plan on Air Quality.

The Member Secretary made a brief presentation on the status of air quality of Kerala based on the data from Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) and Manual Monitoring Stations. There is a network of 39 manual air quality monitoring stations for covering all the districts of Kerala and there are 9 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations across 6 districts. Based on the manual monitoring data annual average of PM 2.5 & PM 10 was found exceeding for 4 stations namely Eloor TCC and Kuttipadan, Perumbavoor in the district of Ernakulam, The BEML Ltd. in the district of Palakkad and Mangattuparamba station in the district of Kannur. DOs were directed to take urgent actions for monitoring stacks in the industrial units and to control pollution from all the processing and boiler stacks in the area. The Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) is also installed in various industries with data being accessed through the software platforms Glens and E Bhoom. Some stations are inactive, actions are being taken by the Board to make those stations active. Particulate matter is a concern to air quality in Kerala. Increasing trend in PM2.5 & PM 10 are shown in some stations due to Vehicular Emissions.

The Asst Transport Commissioner, Motor Vehicle Department informed that the details pertaining to their department has been updated in the SAP. NATPAC explained the additional points incorporated by them in the SAP. Member Secretary added that it was informed by NHAI that ten times the number of trees cut down for NH 66 shall be planted and the amount will be transferred to the Forest Department for the same. Biodiversity Board was also requested to incorporate the actions taken

by them in developing green corridors. The planting of vegetation on road sides and on median dividers is essential for controlling vehicular pollutions.

The Member Secretary appraised that as per the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 11.12.2024, it is directed to get the approval of the SAP from the steering committee and forward the same to CPCB before 31.01.2025, failing which, the same will be accepted by CPCB only on payment of Rs. 1,00,000/-. Therefore, urgent actions shall be taken for presenting the SAP before the Steering Committee. The Secretary, Environment Department suggested that the SAP requires continuous review and monitoring. Therefore, The SAP shall be recommended to the Steering Committee for approval urgently.

The Air Quality Monitoring Committee has approved the State Action Plan on Air Quality in OA 159/2021 and recommended to place the same before the steering committee urgently.

The meeting concluded at 4:30 pm.

S/d

DR. RATHAN U KELKAR

SECRETARY