

## **PRESS BRIEF**

**COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building)  
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001**

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Dated: 08<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

### **Phasing out Coal as fuel across NCR**

- Emissions from heavily polluting fuels like coal for various industrial, domestic and miscellaneous purposes contribute significantly to the degradation of air quality in the NCR and adjoining areas and accordingly a consistent need has been felt to switch over to lesser polluting and cleaner fuel in the NCR.
- Shifting of industries to PNG / cleaner fuels has been a high priority area for the Commission and to this effect, considering the need to optimally balance the imperatives of sustainability of operations as also the emissions from use of various types/ categories of fuels that have a direct bearing on the air quality, it statutory directions have already been issued for permissible fuels for industrial applications in the NCR in terms of Direction Nos. 53, 62, 63 and 64 dated 04.02.2022, 17.03.2022, 18.05.2022 and 02.06.2022 respectively.
- The Central Govt., State Govts. in the NCR and the Govt. of the NCT of Delhi have also been continually making efforts to move towards use of cleaner fuels across various sectors contributing to the overall air quality in the region.
- In pursuance of the Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 16.12.2021 (Civil) No 1135 in the matter of Aditya Dubey (minor) and Anr v/s UOI & Ors, with a view to find permanent solution to the air pollution menace occurring every year in Delhi and NCR, suggestions were invited from the

general public as well as the experts in the field. A large number of suggestions towards banning of coal in NCR were received by the Commission.

- An Expert Group was further constituted by the Commission to examine and deliberate upon all such suggestions and proposals. The Expert Group, in their report also strongly recommended phasing out usage of heavily polluting fossil fuels like coal and mandating cleaner fuels, to the extent possible.
- The matter has been extensively deliberated in the Commission. Coal dominates industrial fuels in the NCR and current estimates indicate that approximately 1.7 million tonnes of coal is consumed annually for industrial applications in NCR, with about 1.4 million tonnes being consumed in six major industrial districts of NCR alone.
- As the concerns of air pollution are uniform across NCR and from the standpoint of a common airshed approach for the entire NCR and adjoining areas, it was decided by the Commission to phase out use of coal as a fuel from entire NCR in industrial, domestic and miscellaneous applications (barring use of low sulphur coal only in thermal power plants), towards aiming for an overall improved air quality in the region.
- As decided by the Commission, the NCR state governments and the government of NCT of Delhi have been accordingly advised for phasing out coal from NCR vide a communication dated 03.06.2022. The aforesaid restrictions / ban on use of coal shall come in force w.e.f. 01.10.2022 (for regions where PNG infrastructure and supply is already available) and w.e.f. 01.01.2023 (for other regions where the PNG supply is still not available). In full effect, use of coal as fuel shall be banned across NCR w.e.f. 01.01.2023.

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