

2010

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT
(STE Branch)

Notification

Dated: 22/10/13

No.3/162/2006-STE(4)/ 946 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 and 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.

Whereas, the Government of Punjab had considered the matter relating to the indiscriminate burning of left over paddy and wheat straw/ stubble in the open fields in the State and it has been observed that the indiscriminate burning of said left over straw/ stubble in open fields after the harvesting of crops is causing wide spread pollution in whole of the State of Punjab resulting in various kinds of environmental problems.

And whereas, air pollution caused by the burning of left over straw leads to eye irritation, respiratory diseases like bronchitis, asthma etc. increasing individual disease mitigation expenses and also affecting one's working capacity. In addition, open burning in the field affects the life of animals, birds and other insects below and above the earth and also causes poor visibility and increases the incidence of road accidents.

Whereas, section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 empowers the State Government to prohibit the burning of any material (not being fuel) in the air pollution control area or part thereof, which may cause or is likely to cause air pollution by issuing a notification in this regard after consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

And whereas, the State Government after consultation with the Punjab State Pollution Control Board is of the opinion that the indiscriminate burning of left over paddy and wheat straw/stubble after harvesting of the crops in the state causes wide spread air pollution, which is harmful to the environment as well as other living creatures.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Government of Punjab is pleased to issue directions to all concerned and general public and hereby prohibits the indiscriminate burning of left over paddy and wheat straw/ stubble in the whole of State of Punjab with immediate effect.