Stop Pollution CRIMES

National week of action against air pollution

The Central Electricity Authority just announced that they're going to allow thermal power plants to continue polluting the air at extreme levels for another 2 to 5 years, thereby disregarding rules set by the Environment Ministry to reduce air pollution.

At a time when over 10 lakh Indians are dying each year from air pollution-related illness, this decision must not be allowed to stand. 300+ thermal power plants must not be allowed to flout environmental regulations for another 2 - 5 years! This air pollution extension by Central Electricity Authority must be cancelled.

Why is this IMPORTANT?

In 2015, the Environment Ministry put in place improved pollution norms for the thermal power industry which required all the thermal plants to become more water efficient and to further reduce the pollution they spew into the air. These included toxic pollutants like sulphur oxides, nitrous oxides, mercury, and particulate matter. These important rules were set to come into force this year, but this has not yet happened.

Instead, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has disregarded the Environment Ministry's rules and has given more than 300 thermal power plants an extension on pollution. **This means that these 300+ thermal power plants can flout environmental regulation for the next 2 - 5 years!** And continue polluting India's air at extremely high levels!

Sulphur dioxides (SOx) and Nitrogen dioxides (NOx) are toxic gases hazardous when inhaled. Inhalation of these gases may cause or worsen respiratory diseases, such as asthma or bronchitis, or may also aggravate existing heart disease. The asthma cases in India are already on the rise -- doctors claim that they are now seeing a rise of 60-70 per cent in ailment cases related to pollution.

To meet the new pollution norms for SOx the plants are required to install a technology called, flue-gas desulfurization (FGD) which helps remove sulphur dioxide from the exhaust gases of fossil-fuel power plants. Even though the industry had a two year window period to install the required technology, most of the industry began arguing back with the government against the rules once they had been officially notified

A recent study found that coal-based thermal power plant clusters were responsible for more than 75% of total SO2 emissions in all 23 Indian states they analysed, and for more than 90% in 16 Indian states.

We cannot allow the environment ministry to continue to play with our health and give a long rope to all the polluters who are not only destroying the environment but also our health.

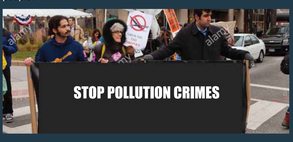
Join us on the national day of action against Air Pollution on 4th December and let's demand from the environment ministry to stand their ground and cancels the extension given by the CEA immediately!

What exactly do I have to do?

STEP ONE. (you can chose all three or pick one)

Option 1 - If you can gather 19 of your friends you can get the placards printed and get a picture clicked at public place. Please do not smile in the picture and make sure your placards read STOP POLLUTION CRIMES. To make it easier, we have made the placards. You can print them out here by copy pasting the link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_ZI-O3Mdw6EJI37o5rcoMUhLGINg1L1R/view?usp=sharing

Option 2: If you are short on numbers you can always get a banner printed/painted as well and get a similar image. It will just require 2 people.



Option 3: You can get your own portrait holding the placard with the message STOP POLLUTION CRIMES

STEP TWO

IMPORTANT: Share the Image on your twitter/Facebook page, you can chose from any of the tweets mentioned below. Feel free to edit the tweet or the post but ensure that the message- STOP POLLUTION CRIMES and petition link remains untouched. We are using the #MyRightToBreathe.

Tweets

.@drharshvardhan please cancel the #airpollutionextension and STOP POLLUTION CRIMES! All power plants should be upgraded to the best available technology as soon as possible: http://bit.ly/2iL7JCr. Indians deserve clean air #MyRightToBreathe

.@moefcc needs to ensure all coal plants follow stricter emission norms. SIGN the petition asking @drharshvardhan to STOP POLLUTION CRIMES! http://bit.ly/2iL7JCr #MyRightToBreathe

.Power plants must NOT be allowed to flout environmental regulations! Join me in asking @drharshvardhan to STOP POLLUTION CRIMES http://bit.ly/2iL7JCr #MyRightToBreathe

Facebook Post.

STOP POLLUTION CRIMES! Join me and thousands of Indians in asking Dr. Harsh Vardhan to put citizens first and enforce stricter emission controls for coal plants. SIGN the petition: http://bit.ly/2A3p7fI #MyRightToBreathe

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Brikesh Singh at brikesh.singh@asar.co.in, 9880092210