

# **Pollution: Govt to Penalise Trucks, Construction Sites**

The Delhi government has decided to impose a stiff penalty on trucks causing pollution in the national capital. The government will also penalise the construction sites not adhering to the dust control measures.

In the meeting convened to review the steps taken by various nodal agencies to curb air pollution in Delhi, Satyendar Jain on Wednesday, the coordinating minister for issues related to air pollution in Delhi, it was decided to take steps on the same.

It may be recalled that National Green Tribunal has directed all such departments and agencies for imposing a compensation of Rs.5,000 on the persons found burning dry leaves, garbage etc. in the open and a compensation of Rs.50,000 on the owners and builders found violating dust control measures in Delhi.

During the meeting, various departments and agencies apprised the ministers about action taken against the violators.

Revenue department, three municipal corporations, NDMC, PWD and DPCC reported that increased vigil, inspections and prosecution action against the violators have significantly brought down the incidence of burning and dust emission from construction activities.

Officers of DDA informed the government that all the concerned officers have been sensitised about the orders of NGT for prevention of incidents of burning garbage/leaves etc, in the open about control of dust from construction activities.

DDA, however, could not give details of inspections carried out and challans issued against the violators. Traffic Police said prosecution action by the Traffic Police is being taken under the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act.

However, as per Traffic Police, orders of the NGT to impose a challan of Rs.5,000 each on polluting trucks entering Delhi can be enforced, when these are notified by the Delhi government.

"Environment Department was directed to take up matter with DDA and Traffic Police and take a final view in the matter. The three Municipal Corporations and other local bodies were asked to inform the owners and builders whose building plans have been sanctioned in the last two years for complying with the dust control norms," said a government official.