

Amid severe pollution concerns, brick kiln permits double in Gurgaon

TNN | Jun 10, 2017, 08.48 AM IST



GURGAON: The state pollution control board last year gave permission to 47 brick kilns to operate in Gurgaon, an RTI response has revealed. Despite an alarming rise in air pollution levels in the city, the number of permissions doubled last year as compared to 2015. Greens say brick kilns are a significant source of air pollution.

"This office has granted CTO (consent to operate) to 23 brick kilns in 2015 and 47 brick kilns in 2016," states the RTI response from Haryana State Pollution Control Board's (HSPCB) north office.

"Despite brick kilns being a major source of air pollution, the number of such kilns is increasing in the city. The National Green Tribunal hasn't made it mandatory for brick kilns to get environmental clearance during their period of operation. Only CTO is required, which is given very easily," Aseem Takyar, the RTI applicant, told TOI on Friday.

Environmentalists said brick kilns are the major sources of harmful and toxic gases, which include sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and suspended particulate matter.

Some green activists, however, raised the need for upgradation of technology at the brick kilns. "Converting bull trench

chimneys into zig-zag ones is an ideal way to reduce emission of pollutants by 80%," said Chetan Agarwal, an environmental analyst.