

# Govt allows brick-kilns in non-NCR areas to operate

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The state government today allowed hundreds of brick-kilns in non-NCR areas to start their operations provided they agree to switch over to the zigzag technology by September end next year.

Ram Niwas, Additional Chief Secretary of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, told The Tribune that the orders would not apply to 13 districts falling in the NCR. "The orders will apply only to eight districts that are not part of the NCR," he clarified.

The government decided to apply the same norms across the state following directions of the Supreme Court-monitored Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for closing polluting brick-kilns in the NCR.

The Authority had ruled that the brick-kilns in the NCR, which did not convert from natural draft to the environment-friendly induced draft technology (popularly known as zig zag technology), were to be closed. The orders spelt doom for the brick-kiln industry and construction activities in the state were adversely affected.

"Considering the problems of people living in non-NCR areas, who were not getting bricks for construction works, we have decided to allow brick-kilns to operate by giving us an undertaking that they will shift to the zigzag technology by the end of September, 2018," said Ram Niwas.

Bhim Jhunthra, senior vice-president of the Haryana Brick-Kiln Owners Association, said they had brought difficulties of people to the notice of senior government officers at a meeting on November 8. "The meeting headed by Chief Secretary DS Dhesi was attended by two Additional Chief Secretaries Ram Niwas and Dheera Khandelwal and members of our association," Jhunthra said.

The Supreme Court constituted the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority with a view to suggesting ways and means to control air pollution in the NCR (Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana).

News Courtesy : TOI,Tribune

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