



**WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
*Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block – LA, Sector III, Salt Lake*  
Calcutta – 700 098, Ph.: 335 8212, Fax : 335 6730

No. 1854 – 4K-5/2004

Dated :31/08/2004.

**O R D E R**

**WHEREAS** the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter for the sake of brevity and convenience referred to as the `State Board`), is executing different environmental laws within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of West Bengal for prevention and control of water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution and other pollution hazards;

**AND WHEREAS** the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was enacted for the maintenance of the wholesomeness of water and the State Board is the executing agency to implement the different provisions of the said Act, 1974 within the territorial jurisdiction of West Bengal to maintain the wholesomeness of water;

**AND WHEREAS** it is observed in course of inspection that after immersion of idols during Pujas in river or water bodies, pollution is generated due to decomposition of different materials used in the idols thrown away during immersion of idols ;

**AND WHEREAS** Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta was pleased to pass an order in connection with A.S.T. No.3525/2000 on 23-10-2000 wherein it has been specifically mentioned that the State Board should take steps to prevent pollution in the river during immersion, and Calcutta Police and Bengal Police should also give necessary assistance to the State Board for the purpose of cleaning the water bodies after immersion of idols in the rivers;

**AND WHEREAS** it is observed that already the State Board informed all the Municipalities to issue necessary instructions upon the Puja Organizers to take urgent steps after immersion to collect wastes from the river beds and if necessary, Municipal authorities may take initiative to clean the wastes after immersion on realisation of certain costs from the Puja Organizers ;

**HENCE,** once again all the Municipal Corporation, the Municipalities and the Panchayats are now once again directed to ensure cleaning of the water bodies situated within their jurisdictions after immersion of the idols and for such cleaning, Corporations, Municipalities and other Panchayat authorities are at liberty to collect suitable costs from the Puja Organizers ;

Both Calcutta and Bengal Police are also requested to ensure cleaning of the water bodies after immersion.

The guidelines prepared by the State Board in this respect are also enclosed for wide circulation among the Puja Organizers for their proper compliance.

All Medias, like Press, Electronic medias, T.V., Radio are also requested to broadcast and telecast as the case may be, the contents of this order, in public interest, for maintenance of the wholesomeness of water within their respective jurisdiction.

By Order,

Sd/-

( S. K. Sarkar )

Member-Secretary,

W. B. Pollution Control Board

Encl :As stated.



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**GUIDELINES IN RESPECT OF MAINTENANCE OF CLEANLINESS OF THE  
WATER AFTER IMMERSION OF IDOLS ON DIFFERENT FESTIVE  
OCCASIONS.**

1. The offerings like flowers and leaves may be collected in separate containers or in pits for composting ;
2. Areas may be earmarked for immersion and such other activities to prevent indiscriminate disposal and to help retrieval of recoverable materials; and,
3. Immersion of idols to River Ganga should take place in accordance with the schedule fixed up by the Police authorities or by the District authorities, as the case may be.
4. Within 24 hours of the immersion of the idols, the remains of the idols, accumulated debris, straw/jute strings etc. and all other waste materials related to the immersion of idols will have to be removed from the river water-body and are to be transported to the solid waste dumping sites of the local Municipal Corporation/Municipality for ultimate disposal, unless the same is collected by idol makers or others for recycling.
5. Local Police Station shall ensure the removal, transportation and disposal of the remains of idol and other waste materials with active co-operation of local bodies and disposal of waste materials to be carried out by the local Municipal Corporation/Municipality.
6. Under no circumstances the removed waste materials be burnt or disposed of in a manner other than mentioned in para 2 above.

Person(s) intending to reuse the remains of the idols/structure of the idols are free to lift the same from the river and its bed and they may be encouraged to do the same immediately after idol immersion by police and local authority.