



HIRAK GHOSH IAS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
&
CHAIRMAN
WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

D.O. No. CHN/ 53/ PCB/2003(12)

Dated, December 29, 2003

Dear Sir,

New Year's eve is an occasion for celebration. Everyone, irrespective of religion or station in life has the right to celebrate it in his or her way. We must, therefore, be mindful that the manner in which we celebrate the occasion does not affect the right of others to enjoy it. In the past, there had been occasions when the use of loudspeakers, bursting of crackers or blowing of horns etc. had caused serious disturbances at night. I would kindly appeal to you to encourage your friends, colleagues or others in your organisation to observe the sound limits which are applicable on the New Year's eve as on any other day.

The sound limits are fixed under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000, issued under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. These are as follows:

Ambient Air Quality Standards in respect of Noise

Area Code	Category of Area/Zone	Limits in dB(A)Leq.	
		Day time (6 a.m. to 10 p.m.)	Night time (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.)
(A)	Industrial area	75	70
(B)	Commercial area	65	55
(C)	Residential area	55	45
(D)	Silence Zone	50	40

The Hon'ble Calcutta High Court in various cases have further restricted the use of loudspeakers. The main points of the order dated 11.08.98 are summarized below:

- Between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. loudspeakers can be used in cultural or any other function maintaining the stipulated noise level.
- After 9 p.m. cultural functions can be arranged within a temporarily covered area with sound absorbing materials, subject to the following :
 - a) The ambient noise level outside the covered area should be maintained as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.
 - b) No loudspeakers should be fitted or operated outside such covered area and that only box type loudspeakers should be used inside the covered area.
 - c) Before organising any cultural function, permission should be obtained from the local Police Authority and Sub-divisional Authority.
- During the time of any function in the street, necessary passage should be kept free for passerbys.

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

(Hirak Ghosh)