NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS the Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal, is entrusted to execute different environmental laws within the territorial jurisdiction of West Bengal, for the prevention and control of pollution in the atmosphere including water, air, land and interrelationship which exist among and between water, air, land and human beings and other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms and property.

AND WHEREAS Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal, issued a notification on 29-12-2009 for controlling noise pollution in the State of West Bengal, fixing the responsibility of the Govt. Departments describing their responsibility to control noise pollution generated from the different sources.

AND WHEREAS it came into the notice and after necessary discussion with the Kolkata Police that there is a general trend developed to fit the loud speakers with the running vehicles and create noise pollution by using such loud speakers in high pitch and such activities also create serious noise pollution in the surrounding areas, specially during procession number of loud speakers are used during immersion procession and continue such noise pollution even during the passing in the front of the `Silence Zone’ areas i.e. hospital, nursing homes, school, college, university, library.

AND WHEREAS it is observed that at the time of fixing loud speakers in the vehicle permission is not obtained by the users which is absolutely contravention of the Noise (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000 read with Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,

AND THEREFORE, to clarify the legal position it is now made compulsory that no one can fit any loud speaker in the vehicle without obtaining permission from the competent authorities i.e. Sub-Divisional Officer, Block Development Officer in district level and in Kolkata, permission should obtained from the Kolkata Police.
It is further made clear that such prohibition and regulation is not applicable in case of Military, Police, Ambulance vehicle or car or any other Govt. vehicles if loud speakers are fitted for the purpose of official use.

West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police will implement the aforementioned guidelines regarding use of the loud speakers in the vehicles meticulously and in case of any violation is observed loud speakers should be confiscated and legal action be initiated in accordance with law.

By Order,

Sd/-

Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal,
Department of Environment.