

Noise pollution: PCB wants sound limiters for audio systems

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Ahead of Kali Puja, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), via an order, has directed all the users of audio systems/microphones, within the state, to use sound limiters when using such devices in open areas to avoid penal action, and instructed police and district authorities to circulate the order.

The order, signed by Dr Rajesh Kumar, member secretary, WBPCB, has instructed the Commissioner of Police, district magistrates and superintendents of police of all districts to circulate the order to all concerned authorities, who are authorized to grant permissions for use of microphones in different areas of the state.

The pollution control board said this order was



issued in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, read with Noise (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000, as amended.

The order has further requested that at the time of giving permission for use of microphones/loudspeakers by the police authorities or district authorities, conditions should be laid down to the effect that without fixation of sound limiters, the sound devices should not be used in the open air to prevent noise pollution generated from such devices.

The board mentioned that after consultation with two

companies, namely M/s West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Ltd and M/s Webel Technology Limited, it has developed sound limiters which can be fitted to audio systems/microphones to govern the noise and bring the same under the permissible limit as mentioned in the aforementioned Act and Rules made there under.

The board mentioned that the National Green Tribunal in its order dated 13 November 2019 had directed to explore whether manufacturers can be directed to produce audio systems fitted with a noise control device. Likewise, the state government's environment department had, the following year, directed manufacturers and traders of such sound devices to use them with sound limiters.

The Statesman, pg-09, Dt-16.10.22