

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
USE OF CRACKERS ON DEEPAVALI AND DUSSEHRA .

3422

Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether use of firecrackers on Deepavali and Dussehra cause pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the effective steps taken by Government to check this pollution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The bursting of firecrackers on Deepavali and Dussehra causes air pollution and noise pollution. The air pollution is found to be associated with increase in levels of Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide and fine dust in ambient air.

(c)The Government has taken various steps which include the following:

- i.The noise standards for firecrackers have been notified and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) is implementing the said noise standards.
- ii.PESO has come out with the environment friendly chemical compositions for four types of commonly used firecrackers and all licensed fireworks manufacturerers in India have been directed by PESO to adhere to said chemical compositions.
- iii.PESO undertakes random sampling and testing for sound levels of firecrackers at the manufacturing point to ensure the compliance of noise standards.
- iv.The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for Union Territories undertake special monitoring of ambient noise levels and air quality during Deepavali in select cities and towns across the country on the advise of the Cenral Government.
- v.The CPCB, SPCBs/PCCs and select Department of Environment carryout press advertisements for public awareness about pollution due to firecrackers during festival season.
- vi.The Hon`ble Supreme Court has ordered that there shall be complete ban on the bursting of sound emitting firecrackers between 10 pm and 6 am. The said orders are implemented by concerned Authorities under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 across the country.