

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 1495
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

Noise pollution due to vehicular horns

1495. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the overall average standard of noise pollution created by the vehicular horns in various metropolitan cities of the country;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any action plan to address the damage caused by noise pollution, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes to put a ban on the horns of various vehicles and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) has established National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network of Real Time Basis in 07 metropolitan cities and installed 70 Nos. of Noise Monitoring System in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai (10 Nos. of stations in each city) under Phase-I and Phase-II of the National Ambient Noise Monitoring Programme.

Noise data generated for the year of 2020 for 07 Cities is attached at Annexure-I. Based on the data, following observations are made:

1. During day time, Hyderabad recorded the maximum sound level followed by Delhi and Chennai. Similarly, during night time maximum sound level observed at Delhi followed by Hyderabad and Chennai.
2. During day time, 14 out of 16 stations in residential zone, 11 out of 25 in commercial zone, 0 out of 12 in industrial zone and 17 out of 17 in silence zone are non-complying with ambient noise standards.
3. Similarly, during night time 16 out of 16 stations in residential zone, 23 out of 25 in commercial zone, 01 out of 12 in industrial zone and 17 out of 17 in silence zone are non-complying with ambient noise standards.

Set of vehicular noise standards are developed under Central Motor Vehicular Rules, 1989 for Vehicles at Manufacturing Stage and In-Use Stage and the status of vehicular noise standards with specific reference to Horns and Sirens are provided at Annexure-II.

Regulations for Horns/Multi-Toned Horns/Sirens as per Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 (CMVR) are as follows:

1. Rule 119 – Reduction of noise; Horn installation requirements for motor vehicle shall be as per [AIS-014] specifications as may be amended from time to time, till such as corresponding Bureau of Indian Standards specifications are notified.
 2. Rule 119(1) and (3) of the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 - The sirens and multi tone horns shall be continued to be banned except for Police Van, Ambulance and Fire Brigades.
 3. Rule 5A (1) of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 - Use of sirens and multi-toned horns on vehicles should be continued to be prohibited in the silence zone and during night time in the residential zone as prescribed under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 except during a public emergency.
 4. National Ambulance Code (AIS 125) - No noise limit is specified for sirens under Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 of MORTH. However, the National Ambulance Code (AIS 125) formulated by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) prescribes noise limits for sirens fitted on Ambulance in the range of 110 dB (A) to 120 dB (A).
- (b) The details of action plan to address noise pollution is as under:
1. Under National Clean Air Programme to clean air in 102 cities, States and UTs have been directed to submit action plan to address noise pollution which *inter-alia* include:
 - (i) State PCBs may undertake Noise level monitoring in conjunction with the Police Department and take remedial action
 - (ii) Police Departments of all the States/UTs may obtain the Noise monitoring devices within a period of three months
 - (iii) Police Department of all the State/UTs may also train their staff regarding the use of such devices
 - (iv) Police Department of all the State/UTs may develop a robust protocol for taking appropriate action against the defaulters
 - (v) Use of Sound Limiter(s) in all sound system / public address system for effective control of Noise Pollution
 2. In compliance to above directions, action plans are received from 30 States / UTs were assessed based on its adequacy in addressing above-mentioned points and following are the major observations based on the assessment:
 - 10 States/ UTs (Delhi, Tripura, Bihar, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh) have addressed all the five action points as listed above in their action plans.
 - 20 States/UTs (Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Goa, Daman and Diu & Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Pondicherry, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand) have partially addressed the above- listed action points in their action plans.
 - 05 States / UTs namely Haryana, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan have not submitted any action plan to CPCB.
 3. Earlier, CPCB has also issued directions vide letter dated 26/04/2016 to concerned 07 SPCBs/PCCs under Section 18 (1) b of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution)

Act and under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide letter dated 06/02/2017 to concerned designated authorities to take corrective measures to control noise pollution.

4. CPCB prepared a Methodology for Formulation of Noise Mapping in India as per directions of Hon'ble NGT OA. No. 681 of 2018 in the matter of News item published in "The Times of India" Authored by Shri Vishwa Mohan Titled "NCAP with Multiple Timelines to Clean Air in 102 Cities to be released around August 15".
5. CPCB has issued directions to SPCBs/PCCs vide letter dated 21.06.2019 under section 18 (1) b of the air (prevention and control of pollution) Act,1981 regarding noise mapping, identifying hot spots and mitigation plan for control of noise pollution.

(c) The matter relates to noise pollution caused due to horns of vehicles and Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is the nodal agency for implementation of Norms for vehicular noise as per Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), 1989.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1495 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.03.2021 REGARDING 'NOISE POLLUTION DUE TO VEHICULAR HORNS' BY SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Ambient Noise Level Data of Seven Cities For The Year 2020

S. No.	Stations Name with Zone		Limit in dB(A) Leq		2020	
	City	Location	Day	Night	Day	Night
			06 AM to 10PM	10PM to 06AM	Leq. dB(A)	Leq. dB(A)
1	Bengaluru	ParisarBhawan (C)	65	55	63	57
2		Peeniya (I)	75	70	62	60
3		NisargaBhawan (R)	55	45	61	60
4		Marathali (C)	65	55	62	60
5		BTM (R)	55	45	55	54
6		Yeshwantpur (C)	65	55	70	63
7		R.V.C.E. (S)	50	40	59	57
8		Whitefield (I)	75	70	64	59
9		Dolmur (R)	55	45	62	56
10		Nihmans (S)	50	40	60	71
11	Chennai	Eye Hospital (S)	50	40	60	59
12		T.Nagar(C)	65	55	74	71
13		Perambur (C)	65	55	60	53
14		Guindy (I)	75	70	73	73
15		Triplicane (R)	55	45	59	58
16		Pallikarnai (C)	65	55	58	55
17		Velachery (R)	55	45	63	56
18		Washermanpet (C)	65	55	69	69
19		Anna Nagar (S)	50	40	63	62
20		Sowcarpet (R)	55	45	62	58
21	Delhi	Dilshad Garden (S)	50	40	68	68
22		CPCB HQ.(C)	65	55	64	56
23		DCE(S)	50	40	56	53
24		ITO (C)	65	55	75	73
25		NSIT (S)	50	40	57	54
26		Civil Lines (C)	65	55	60	57
27		RK Puram(R)	55	45	61	56

S.	Stations Name with Zone	Limit in dB(A) Leq		2020		
28		AnandVihar (C)	65	55	62	58
29		Mandir Marg (S)	50	40	56	49
30		Punjabi Bagh (R)	55	45	56	51
31	Hyderabad	Abids (C)	65	55	70	62
32		Punjagutta(C)	65	55	68	61
33		Jeedimetla(I)	75	70	64	62
34		Zoo (S)	50	40	57	57
35		Jublee Hills (R)	55	45	60	55
36		Tarnaka(R)	55	45	65	56
37		Gaddapothram(I)	75	70	64	63
38		Gachibowli(S)	50	40	59	55
39		Secunderabad (C)	65	55	67	64
40		Kukatpalli (C)	65	55	77	73
41		Kolkata	SSKM Hospital (S)	50	40	52
42	Gole Park (I)		75	70	63	59
43	Head Quarter (C)		65	55	63	61
44	Patauli (R)		55	45	59	59
45	New Market (C)		65	55	64	65
46	Birati N. (R)		55	45	62	55
47	RG Kar (S)		50	40	56	59
48	Tollygunge (C)		65	55	65	61
49	Bag Bazar (R)		55	45	67	64
50	Behala (I)		75	70	67	63
51	Lucknow	Talkatora (I)	75	70	61	57
52		HajratGunj (C)	65	55	65	57
53		P.G.I. (S)	50	40	76	71
54		Indira Nagar (R)	55	45	55	54
55		Gomti Nagar (S)	50	40	63	57
56		Chinhat (I)	75	70	65	53
57		IT College (S)	50	40	63	57
58		CSS Airport (C)	65	55	62	57
59		RSC Aliganj (C)	65	55	71	63
60		UPPCB HQ. (R)	55	45	62	56
61	Mumbai	Thane (C)	65	55	67	68
62		Vashi Hospital (S)	50	40	65	65
63		Ashp (S)	50	40	56	56
64		Bandra (C)	65	55	63	63

S.	Stations Name with Zone	Limit in dB(A) Leq		2020	
65	MPCB, Head Qarter (C)	65	55	64	59
66	M&M Kandivali (I)	75	70	59	52
67	CST (C)	65	55	72	66
68	L&T Powai (I)	75	70	61	55
69	PepsicoChembur (R)	55	45	68	65
70	Andheri (I)	75	70	72	70

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Status of Vehicular Noise Standards w.r.t Horns & Sirens

Vehicular Noise Sources	Vehicular Noise Standards		Standard Code	Noise Limits/Standard
	Norms notified by	To be Implemented & complied by		
1. Horn as a component	Specification for horns etc. (manufacturing & installation) by MoRTH	MoRTH (Traffic Police)	IS 1884-1992	85 dB for Type 1 horns 90 dB for Type 2A horns 100 dB for Type 2B horns and 105 dB for Type 3 horns
2. Horn Installation			IS 15796-2008 (AIS 014)	Maximum sound pressure level when determined in accordance with method of test shall meet the following: a) between 83 dB(A) for horns fitted on 2 wheelers or 3 wheelers of a power less than or equal to 7 kW and b) between 93 dB(A) to 112 dB(A) for the horn fitted on all other motor vehicles including tractor, 2 wheelers and 3 wheelers of a power greater than 7 kW
3. Sirens			AIS 125 (National Ambulance Code)	Noise limits for sirens fitted on Ambulance are in the range of 110 dB (A) to 120 dB (A).