

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2906
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

Ban on Fire Crackers

2906. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes a complete ban on firecrackers across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the adverse effects of firecrackers on Air Quality;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of firecrackers seized and arrests made/penalty imposed by the enforcement authority during last two years, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) There is no proposal from the Government regarding complete ban on firecrackers across the country. As per directives given on 23.10.2018, the Apex Court has allowed the use of green firecrackers with reduced emissions. The Graded Response Action Plan, as notified by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change vide S.O. 118 (E) dated January 12, 2017 has a provision to strictly enforce the Supreme Court's ban on firecrackers when Air Quality Index (AQI) is in Moderate to poor category (ambient PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ concentration value is between 61-120 µg/m³ or 101-350 µg/m³ respectively) in National Capital Region.

In addition, as per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal orders dated 09.11.2020 and 01.12.2020, the following was directed:

1. *"There will be total ban against sale or use of all kinds of fire crackers in the NCR from midnight of November, 9 -10, 2020 to the midnight of November 30 - December 1, 2020, to be reviewed thereafter." (also applicable to all cities/towns in the country where the average of ambient air quality during November (as per available data of last year) fall under 'poor' and above category.)*
2. *"There will be total ban on sale and use of all kinds of fire crackers during Covid-19 pandemic in the NCR and all cities/towns in the country where the ambient air quality falls under the 'poor' and above category."*
3. *"During Christmas and New Year, green crackers can be used from 11:55 pm to 12:30 am only at places where air quality is 'moderate' or below as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court."*

(c) and (d) Central Pollution Control Board carries ambient air quality monitoring on selected pre-Deepawali days and on Deepawali days since past few years. Air quality (both manual and Real time) on Pre-Deepawali day (09.11.2020) and Deepawali day (14.11.2020) are monitored in the year 2020.

The city level average for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations on Deepawali day (14.11.2020) were 645 µg/m³ and 483 µg/m³ respectively. City-wise increase/decrease in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} on Diwali day is tabulated below:

City-wise increase in PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} on Diwali day compared to Pre-Diwali period (in %)								
	Agra	Delhi	Kolkata	Bengaluru	Bhopal	Lucknow	Vadodara	Shillong
PM10	-41.5	67.1	22.6	-24.8	86.2	114.0	-10.0	53.7
PM2.5	-34.8	82.9	53.6	-41.4	81.3	67.6	26.0	30.5

SO₂ was found always within the prescribed 24 hourly NAAQS (80µg/m³) throughout the monitoring period including Diwali day. Increase in SO₂ concentration on Diwali day at cities like Delhi, Lucknow, Bhopal and Vadodara are evident and may be attributed to oxidation of sulphur due to bursting of cracker. NO₂ was reported within prescribed 24 hourly NAAQS (80µg/m³) in all the cities except Delhi during Pre-Diwali, Diwali and post Diwali days. During Pre Diwali period and on Diwali day NO₂ was found to above NAAQS in Delhi. Delhi, Bhopal, Lucknow and Bengaluru reported increase in NO₂ on Diwali day compared to Pre-Diwali period.

Overall, in the year 2020, Deepawali had witnessed higher background levels of pollutants during pre-diwali days and further addition of particulates during night from firecrackers.

(e) Manufacturing, storage, transport, sale and handling of harmful crackers comes under the purview of The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), Nagpur under the Explosives Rules, 2008. Seizure and arrests are imposed by the state authorities enforcing Law and Order. This information is being collected from the State/UT Governments.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2906 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2021 REGARDING "BAN ON FIRE CRACKERS" RAISED BY SHRIMATISAJDA AHMED, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Locations Covered in Deepawali Special Monitoring				
S. No.	States	City	Name of the location	Parameters covered
01	Delhi	Delhi NCT	1) Pitampura 2) Janakpuri, 3) ITO	Regulatory Parameters like PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂ , NO ₂ , Metals (Pb, Ni, As in PM ₁₀) and parameters related to AAQCVs (Al, Fe and Ba in PM _{2.5})
02	Gujarat	Vadodara	1) Gotri Water Tank 2) M.S. University Campus	
03	Karnataka	Bengaluru	1) Rajarajeshwari Nagar 2) Basaveshwara Nagar	
04	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	1) North T.T.Nagar, 2) Nehru Nagar	
05	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	1) Taj Mahal 2) Nunhi	
		Lucknow	1) VikshKhand, Gomt Nagar, 2) MayurVihar, Indira Nagar	
06	West Bengal	Kolkata	1) Kasba 2) Behala 3) North avenue	