

# CPCB proposes fine up to Rs 1L for incessant honking, loud construction activity at odd hours

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Incessant honking, loud construction activity, loudspeakers at odd hours among other noise pollution actions will attract fines ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 lakh, country's top pollution watchdog Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has proposed.

The new fines have been proposed in response to a set of cases going on in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding noise pollution wherein the applicants complained that despite several court orders, the problem of noise pollution continues in the national capital.

In November 2019, a bench headed by the NGT chairperson A.K. Goel had asked the CPCB to look at revising fines for bursting crackers and for repeated violations. The tribunal had also asked laying down stringent compensation for tampering with the sound limiters.

In a report filed with the NGT in June this year, the CPCB came out with a string of penalties for violation of noise pollution norms.

For instance, violation of norms regarding the use of loudspeakers/public address system can result in seizure of the equipment and a fine of Rs 10,000.

Similarly, violation of noise pollution norms regarding the use of diesel generator sets can result in sealing of DG sets and a fine of Rs 10,000 to Rs 100,000 depending upon its size.

The violation in cases of sound-emitting construction equipment can result in a fine of Rs 50,000 and its seizure or sealing.

The violation of noise norms while bursting firecrackers beyond the time limit (prescribed by the Supreme Court) could attract a fine of Rs 1,000 (in the residential, commercial or mixed zone) and Rs 3,000 (in a silence zone).

But in case of violation of norms during public rallies, marriage procession or any religious event, a heavier fine of Rs 10,000 could be levied on the organiser in residential/commercial or mixed zone and Rs 20,000 in a silence zone.

In case of the first violation of noise rule within a fixed premise in a function organised by the resident welfare organisation, a marriage function, public or

institution event, banquet hall, open ground functions, a fine of Rs 20,000 may be levied while a second violation could result in a fine of Rs 40,000.

However, more than two violations could result in a fine of Rs 100,000 and sealing of the premises, as per the CPCB proposal.