

Rajasthan under each of the schemes in the period 1995-96 to 1997-1998 is as follows:

Scheme	Central Assistance Released (Rs. in Lakhs)
Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme	938.51
Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme	781.56
Conservation and Development of Non-timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of the Degraded Forests on usufruct sharing basis	222.79 5.93

The progress of projects sanctioned under these schemes is evaluated both by the State/Central Governments and by independent agencies appointed for the purpose from time to time.

[*English*]

Noise Pollution

2866. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

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

(a) the level of urban noise acceptable under International Standards and the levels of noise observed in major towns and cities in India;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has sought explanations from the Government on steps taken against noise pollution in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the noise pollution increases many times during Diwali festival;

(f) whether the matter was taken to the courts; and

(g) if so, the action taken to ban the high density noise and air polluting fireworks and crackers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The urban noise levels recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) are as under:

Noise - exposure limits recommended by WHO

	Recommended maximum level
Industrial/Occupational	75 decibels
Community/Urban	
— Day-time	55 decibels
— Night-time	45 decibels
Indoor/Domestic	
— Day-time	45 decibels
— Night-time	35 decibels

The levels of noise observed in major cities and towns in India are depicted in the table given below:

Ambient noise levels in cities [All values expressed in decibels]

Cities	Residential		Commercial		Sensitive		Industrial	
	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bhopal	60	44	75	57	73	42	68	47
Bangalore	59-75	37-59	68-81	46-64	58-74	—	63-86	42-65
Calcutta	76-86	58-76	70-90	57-78	69-89	65-70	75-82	53-70
Chennai	57-84	45-50	74-80	69-71	46-70	47-50	69-76	63-69
Delhi	53-71	—	63-75	—	62-68	—	65-81	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dehradun	50	38	70	50	58	42	50	45
Hyderabad	56-73	40-50	67-84	58-73	62-78	51-67	44-77	42-70
Jaipur	46-82	43-78	64-88	51-80	60-75	55-66	59-81	48-78
Kanpur	49-69	39-59	68-82	57-76	47-61	35-57	63-78	57-63
Kochi	70	51	85	56	72	51	70	61
Lucknow	55	50	70	58	50	40	60	58
Mumbai	45-81	45-68	63-81	60-75	58-77	46-66	73-79	56-72
Varanasi	50	40	70	50	55	40	50	50
Vizag	74	59	85	70	75	57	75	51

(Source: Surveys conducted by CPCB)

(b) The increasing trend of noise observed in these cities may be attributed to increase in commercial activities and vehicular traffic.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. The bursting of crackers and fire works during Diwali festival leads to sporadic rise in levels of noise.

(f) Yes, Sir. A writ petition was filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta by Barra Bazar Fire Dealers Association and others Versus Commissioner of Police, Calcutta and others.

(g) The action taken/proposed to be taken to check pollution from fireworks include the following:

- (i) State Governments and State Pollution Control Boards were advised to impose restrictions on the use of fire crackers which produce noise of more than 100 decibels at the distance of 4 metres.
- (ii) Banning of bursting of fire crackers during night time.
- (iii) Bursting of fire crackers to be permitted only during public festivals and at the designated places.
- (iv) Banning of manufacture and bursting of joined fire crackers.

Coastal Regulation Zone Regulations

2867. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating scrapping of CRZ Regulation of 1991 framed under the Environment Protection Act of 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Father Saldanha Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Procedure to Recover Dues from SEBs

2868. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise break up of the dues of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry from the State Electricity Boards as on December 31, 1997; and

(b) the details of the dues of the electricity to be collected by SEBs from major consumers and agriculturists as on March 31, 1997, SEB-wise; and

(c) the procedure being adopted to recover these outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The State-wise details of the outstanding dues of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power as on 31st December, 1997 are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The details of the receivables by SEBs as on 31st March, 1997 (cumulative) are in the attached Statement-II