

## 5 chemicals banned in firecrackers

Ahead of the festive seasons of Dussehra and Deepavali, the Supreme Court on Monday prohibited the use of five chemicals, labelled as toxic by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in the manufacture of firecrackers.

A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta recorded in its short order that, "that no firecrackers manufactured by the respondents shall contain antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead in any form whatsoever.

It is the responsibility of the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) to ensure compliance particularly in Sivakasi."

The order came after the court heard the submissions from officials of the CPCB and Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation's (PESO) Firework Research and Development Centre at Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu.

The court asked the CPCB to clarify on the use of strontium, another chemical branded toxic by the pollution body, in firecrackers. . Manufacturers however denied using these chemicals.

Even as the court gave the CPCB time till September 15 to provide detailed information on the environmental impact, especially air pollution, caused by firecrackers, private manufacturers, who are suffering a court ban on sale of firecrackers in the Delhi and NCR regions, tried to reason that firecrackers is not the only source of pollution.

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