NO TOTAL BAN ON CRACKERS: CENTRE TELLS SC

Relevant for: Environment & Disaster Management | Topic: Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development & EIA

The Centre suggested working together with institutions like the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to deal with Diwali pollution.

It suggested setting up of Raw Material Characterisation Facilities to check the presence of high contents of unburned material, partially combusted material or poor quality of raw material in gun powder in firecrackers.

The Centre proposed use of "reduced emission firecrackers or improved firecrackers". These are "low emission sound and light emitting functional crackers with PM reduction by 30-35% and signifcant reduction in nitrogen oxide and sulpher dioxide due to in-situ water generation as dust suppressant and low cost due usage of low cost oxidants".

The government said PESO could be approached to ensure that fireworks with permitted chemicals and decibel levels are used.

"CPCB and respective state pollution control boards shall carry out short-term monitoring in their cities for 14 days (commencing from seven days prior to Diwali and ending seven days after Diwali for parameters namely aluminium, barium, iron apart from regulatory parameters against short term ambient air quality proposed by CPCB with regard to bursting of firecrackers," the affidavit said.

The Supreme court is hearing applications seeking a nationwide ban on the use, manufacture, licensing or sale of firecrackers and sparklers of any kind in a bid to combat pollution on an emergency basis.

Sign up to receive our newsletter in your inbox every day!

Please enter a valid email address.

Our existing notification subscribers need to choose this option to keep getting the alerts.

END