

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letters dated 5.11.2020 of Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to Shri. Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha and Shri. Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan

As you are aware, Diwali festival is celebrated across the country by the public by bursting crackers, as part of their cultural ethos.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its judgment dated 23.10.2018 in W.P.(C) No.728 of 2018, considering the direct and indirect employment involved in the manufacturing of crackers, as well as to safeguard the traditional/cultural way of celebrating the Diwali festival, directed all the States "to encourage bursting of crackers in public places for a limited period of 2 hours on the day of Diwali". I would like to inform you that in Tamil Nadu, in tune with the Supreme Court directions, we have restricted the bursting of green crackers to 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening.

Tamil Nadu is a major cracker manufacturing State using raw materials with reduced emission level and low decibel. Tamil Nadu contributes to about 90% of total manufacture of crackers in the country, providing direct employment to around 4 lakh people and indirect employment to 4 lakh people. Their livelihood solely depends on the sale of crackers during Diwali season. The ban on bursting crackers in your State can have a direct bearing on the livelihood of over 8 lakh workers in the State of Tamil Nadu and another equal number of people engaged in its sale.

It is understood that your Government has recently banned the sale and bursting of the crackers in your State for the ensuing Diwali season, considering the pandemic COVID-19 situation. I would like to bring to your kind notice that Tamil Nadu State produces mainly green crackers and therefore the question of environmental pollution does not arise. There is no empirical or validated data to demonstrate that the bursting of crackers has effect on COVID patients.

I, therefore, request you to reconsider your Government's decision to ban the sale and bursting of crackers in your State for this Diwali season.

My advance Diwali wishes to you and your family.

Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.