

Circular No. 26/74

No. D3-71560/74 Dated 16-09-74

Sub:- Loud Speaker nuisance – necessity to curb-instructions issued-

The public nuisance caused by the uncontrolled use of loud speakers has been exercising my mind for quite some time. Under the existing regulations powers to issue licenses for the use of loud speakers has been delegated to Circle Inspectors and Sub Inspectors. It would appear that this power is not exercised with circumspection.

Every application for the use of aloud speaker does not mean that a licence should automatically be granted. First of all, no licenses should be granted for the use of a loud speaker which is used within a hearing distance from a hospital or a public office if it will cause disturbance or annoyance to the patients in the former or those working in the latter. (For this purpose Minister's residence should be treated as public offices since Government work is done there at all hours of the day and night)

Secondly, when a licence is granted it is the duty of the licensing authority to check up and see that its conditions are strictly adhered to. Many persons under the guise of a license granted for the use of loud speaker between 6 am and 10 pm start of blaring out loud speakers as early as 4.30 am. No one seems to be exercising any control over it. It should not be permitted. Thirdly, even between 6 am and 10 pm I see no reason why a blanket permission should be given to use a loud speaker. Loud noise is injurious to the health of everyone and loud noise continuously blared out in a monotonous way over a sound amplifier is doubly so. So in the normal course no loud speaker license should be granted for more than two hours at a stretch. Recently, I am informed, when a meeting of the Council of Ministers, was going on in Cantonment House loud speaker blared out from Valamcode junction playing recorded music caused considerable nuisance to the Council.

Finally, there is no reason why a condition should not be forced in the form of the license that it should not be heard at a distance of more than 500 yards from the place where the sound amplifier is fitted.

All Officers are expected to carry out the instructions contained in the circular with meticulous care. If there is any deviation, it will be met with deterrent action.

Copy of letter No. 202/74/M(Ind) Dated 13-09-74 from Shri T V Thomas, Minister for Industries, Trivandrum to the Inspector General of Police, Trivandrum.

I presume that your department is legally empowered to insist on adjusting the volume of loud spears so as to avoid nuisance to the people in the locality. If so, I am sorry to point out that your officers are conniving with people using loud speakers so that even people who are residing a mile away from the place where the mike is installed are put to lot of inconvenience. The other day while we were holding a Cabinet Meeting in the Cantonment House we had to put up with inconvenience of a mike playing record music at the Valamcode Junction. Usually for marriage functions the loud speakers begin to play even as early as 5o clock in the morning. I wish that your instruct your officers that a condition should be stipulated for fixing the volume as low as possible and to play record music only at the time of the function.