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Title: Regarding Supreme Court's directive on noise pollution.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (MUKUNDAPURAM) : Due to the Central Government legislations and the Supreme Court directives restricting sound pollution, the festival celebration in all Hindu, Christian and Muslim places of worship in Kerala are facing functional difficulties.

There is a restriction today that prevents festival celebrations between 10 O'clock at night and six AM.

Sir, Kerala is a land of festivals. It is known worldwide as God's own country. It is also a hub of cultural activities, and has a rich tradition of religious harmony.

All our classical and folk dances and performing arts like Kalhakali, Ottam Thullal, Kuthu, Kuddiyattam, Bharatnatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipuddi and Kai Kotti Kali, Kolkali, Oppana Margam Kali and Tribal dances and performance of percussions instruments will be affected, if the Supreme court directive is enacted.

The internationally famous fire work displays during Trichur Puram will be discontinued.

All rituals in temples will be affected and the blowing of conch shells and bursting of crackers will have to be discontinued.

Even the call for prayers given by Muslim mosques and the tolling of bells in Churches will be stopped.

Lives of several lakhs artists and employees who are solely depended on temple arts will be severely affected.

Cases are pending against several temple authorities and Christian clergy men for flouting the Supreme Court directives on sound pollution.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

Sir, the temple festivals in Kerala are not so noisy as the Diwali celebrations in the north. They are part of age old rituals. They are occasions for social rejoicing.

The organizers take prior sanction for holding fire work displays, performing percussion instruments and staging various performing arts and parading elephants.

Sir, the various temple and church festivals should be celebrated with the same fervor and enthusiasm, as they have been celebrated down the centuries.

This way we can foster and encourage the plurality and healthy survival of our socio cultural heritage.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to make one thing very clear. If you are brief, I will allow all of you a chance. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House. Please be brief. Do not read a statement like this for Special Mention. Only mention the points. Members bring long and lengthy statement and go on reading. If you do this, then there will be no end to it.