

# More and More Noise in Bachupally

Noise levels are rising and are well above the stipulated limits.

The measurements taken last week in the busy areas of Punjagutta, Abids and Paradise hover around 90 dB. Sometimes, they even touch 92 dB against the prescribed limit of 65 dB for commercial zones.

Even the minimum documented noise levels at these centres stay put at 70 dB, clearly way above the acceptable limits. Officials of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) say that the rising noise levels have a deleterious effect on the health of the citizens leading to hypertension, irritation, dizziness, trauma and skin disorders apart from possibilities of causing cardio-vascular ailments.

The question is who will enforce the sound-noise limits.

The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board's job seemingly ends with monitoring the noise levels and, under 'The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules issued in the year 2000', the local municipal body and the government should enforce them.

But, as is clearly evident, controlling the daily din is not being touched upon.

Civic bodies like the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation which have to earmark schools, hospitals and courts as 'Silence Zones' and take 'measures for abatement of noise', have done precious little.

The traffic police, who are expected to act on the noise levels, have not equipped themselves with the paraphernalia such as noise meters. Nor are their personnel trained in measuring noise levels.