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NOISE: AN INVISIBLE ARCHENEMY

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Abstract-The 'nausea' or the unwanted/undesirable sound of higher intensities is responsible for the elimination of certain species of birds, animals and plants. The noise made by the loud- speakers, microphones and by the heavy motor vehicles etc. is a major irritant for the aged, patients and for the students etc.

In spite of several restrictive instructions and some scattered legal regulations, the noise pollution is going on unabatedly, because perhaps, due to the lethargic attitude of our enforcement machinery.

Proper fabrication of the built- in silencers, or the re- designing of the noisy industrial appliances, can be of help, in large measure, for curtailing the escape of louder noise therefrom. And there is an urgent need to enact exclusive legislations, as well, to regulate and overcome this archenemy, strictly, as also to ensure that such laws are really implemented, in letter and spirit, without failure of any kind, and at any cost.

Prologue

The 'nausea' or the unwanted/ undesirable sound of higher intensities is a potential health- hazard¹ that may cause many ailments, physiological, psychological and economic etc.² ...not for human beings

alone, but also for other flora and fauna, as well. Noise is a type of atmospheric pollution³ which is responsible for the elimination⁴ of certain species of birds, animals and plants⁵. The noise made by the loud- speakers, microphones and by the heavy motor vehicles etc. is a major irritant for the aged, patients and for the students, in general. This is, in fact, a shadowy public enemy whose growing menace has increased much in the modern age due, especially, to the rapidity in urbanization, industrialization and in the advancement of science & technology. Noise pollution is, really, a serious problem of today as a severe challenge to the quality of life in most of the countries in the world⁶.

The weakest sound or noise, a human ear can hear, fall between 0 to 1 decibel of sound- intensity (dB)⁷. Noise becomes pollutant when it contaminates our environment and it becomes, then, a nuisance⁸ to affect adversely the health of persons, their activities and their mental abilities subject, of course, to several factors like our mental attitude, environment, time and place etc. which are significant to determine whether or not the noise in question is actionable. And all these factors differ widely, person to person, ... hard enough to be quantified. According to latest research, a sound