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Serving food at Ramlila, Durga Puja stalls to get tougher with DDA order

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NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2



SERVING OF food at pandals during the festive season could be adversely affected as the Delhi Development Authority has said that no cooking of food and dish-washing will be allowed at outdoor stalls unless an effluent treatment plant (ETP) is installed on the ground there.

Citing directions of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), the landowning agency said it is mandated to install an ETP while holding any function in open spaces such as Ramlila, Durga Puja that involve cooking of food and disposal of liquid waste. "In case of violation of this direction, NGT has directed to impose a penalty of at least Rs 5 lakh per day which can go up to Rs 50

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lakh per day," the agency has said.

BJP meanwhile opposed the move and demanded relaxation. In a letter to the NGT and DPCC, party spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor asked for a review of the decision. "Melas with food stalls have traditionally been

part of Ramlila and Durga Puja celebrations. These are occasions when people come with families and friends and these celebrations can't be assumed without food stalls," he said.

Kapoor said that expecting Ramlila or Durga Puja commit-

tees to set up effluent plants on grounds is impractical. "Instead, government bodies offering grounds against rent should set up effluent plants and they can charge rent from those hiring grounds like marriage pandals and banquet owners do," he said.

The DDA also said that open spaces under the agency for religious-recreational functions are available for booking without any charges, subject to a security deposit ranging from Rs 24 per sqm (for booking upto 15 days) to Rs 60 per sqm (for booking more than 30 days), which too is fully refundable and there is no enhancement of booking charges.

"If applicant violated DPCC directions then a penalty of Rs 5,00,000 will be imposed. It is fully refundable and will be forfeited only in case of violation of DPCC order," said a DDA official.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
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BJP seeks breather for Ramlila organisers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has written a letter to the chairpersons of National Green Tribunal and Delhi Pollution Control Committee, requesting them to review the decision to not to allow cooking of food in Ramlila and Durga Puja pandals.

Delhi Development Authority had said on Monday that according to a December 13, 2019 circular of DPCC, an effluent treatment plant (ETP) is necessary while holding any functions in open spaces such as Ramlila, Durga Puja, etc, which involve cooking of food and disposal of liquid waste, and violation

can result in a penalty of at least Rs 5 lakh per day.

Kapoor has said that melas with food stalls have traditionally been a part of the Ramlila and Durga Puja celebrations. These are occasions when people come in with extended families and friends and these celebrations can't be imagined without food stalls, he added.

Challans can be issued to control spread of waste in grounds or choking of sewers but it cannot be in lakhs of rupees, he further stated. He also said that expecting Ramlila or Durga Puja committees to set up effluent plants is an impractical proposition and government bodies should rather set up ETPs and then charge rent.

हिन्दुस्तान

भोजन बनाने पर लगी रोक हटाने की मांग

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण की एनजीटी के आदेशों का हवाला देते हुए रामलीला आयोजन स्थल व दूर्गा पूजा पंडालों में भोजन बनाने पर रोक का विरोध शुरू हो गया है। भाजपा प्रवक्ता प्रवीण शंकर कपूर ने इसका विरोध जताते हुए एनजीटी व दिल्ली प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति (डीपीसीसी) के अध्यक्षों को पत्र लिखकर इसका विरोध जताते हुए पुनः समीक्षा की मांग की है।