

Best Practices | Sector Specific Online Single Window Module for availing of License for Green Firecracker Manufacturing and Selling

Reform Category - Digitization, Simplification & Elimination of Redundancies

How reform was implemented –

Through Administrative changes vide notification, a sector specific online module has been developed where the applicant can have all the necessary approvals through a single license for manufacturing and selling of Green Firecracker.

A scheme, called **West Bengal Green Firecracker Manufacturing, Storage and Selling Scheme** has also been published on 18/11/2023 to create an ecosystem of authorized Green Firecracker manufacturing and selling clusters and thereby implement Ease of Doing Business for the Green Firecracker sector in the state.

URL of the portal/website: <https://silpasathi.wb.gov.in/green-fire-cracker>

Pre-reform scenario:

The Firecracker industry is majorly an unorganized sector in West Bengal. The process of getting license for manufacturing and selling Firecracker was manual and cumbersome.

Multiple statutory approvals (like CTE, CTO, FSR, FSC etc.) were required from, Fire, PCB, Police, DM at different point of time in starting / operating of business. Due of lack of getting any one clearance or expiry of any approval's, entrepreneurs had to face harassment in terms of multiple visits to difference Govt. offices / involvement of intermediaries. There was no clear mandate for Departmental Inspection or timeline for granting the overall approval

As a result, the sector used to operate under uncertain / unsafe/ hazard prone conditions.

Objective:

The objective of the scheme is to provide safe and environment friendly echo system for manufacturing, storage & selling of green firecrackers & sparklers in the State of West Bengal thereby generating scope of safe and sustainable employment leading to stable livelihood, wealth creation and education of the next generation.

Details of stakeholder consultations:

Type of Stakeholders: Individual Manufacturers & Individual Sellers, Firecracker Associations present in the state

Meetings: Multiple physical meetings involving all stakeholders involving all Departments have been conducted. Multiple other virtual meetings have been conducted with major stakeholder.

Major Discussion Points: Pain points of the stakeholders regarding manufacturing and selling license were discussed. Also, identification of suitable land for setting up Green Firecracker manufacturing and selling clusters were discussed.

Result: Online module was developed and a scheme was introduced to foster regularized growth of green firecracker manufacturing and selling units in the State in a safe, secured, sustainable & structured manner.

Number of procedures, documents, form size, etc. reduced:

Earlier to get a firecracker manufacturing/ selling license –

1. Applicants were to visit multiple departmental and district administration offices
2. Submit multiple documentation in each Govt. offices to avail of Dept. specific clearances and license.
3. Multiple no. of Inspections by various concerned Govt. agencies and background checks by multiple authorities.
4. Lack of clear timeline for getting license
5. Several renewals required at several point of time during operating of business
6. Failure of Renewal of any license leading to unauthorized operation / penalty
7. Multiple payments
8. Dependencies on Intermediaries

However, after the implementation of the single window system for Green Firecracker manufacturing and selling license, the system has been simplified.

Marquee features of the system:

1. Single Common application form for all required approvals
2. Synchronous Joint Inspection by all concerned Govt. agencies
3. Common information / documents is required to be filled up / uploaded only once throughout the lifecycle of the business.
4. Single Integrated payment
5. Realtime tracking of application Status
6. Applicants are notified of any status changes through email and sms
7. One Common final certificate issued can be downloaded from the Applicant dashboard.

Businesses / Citizen benefited:

2000+ Licences issued for Selling & Manufacturing of Green Fire Crackers through Single window system benefitting business entities in the sector across the State.

All the citizens of West Bengal have been benefitted through this initiative due to manufacturing & selling of authorized & certified green fire crackers in the State.

Impact on Business / Citizen:

Earlier, there was lack of overall specified timeline for issuing license for firecracker manufacturing and selling. As a result, due to such uncertainties the sector was unable to flourish in a regulated manner.

However, presently it has been institutionalized to issue Green Firecracker manufacturing and selling license **within 15 working days** (from the date of application), if the application is found ok.

Impact on Cost:

One single integrated fixed payment is now required to be made by the applicant online if the application is proposed to be approved.