

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.07.2010
ANSWERED ON
GENERATION OF E WASTE .

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Shri Parimal Nathwani

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the magnitude of E-waste generated in the country every year;
- (b) how it compares with some Western and Asian countries;
- (c) how these countries are dealing with so far as the disposal of E-waste is concerned; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by Government in this direction?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Based on a survey carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it is estimated that 1.47 lakh MT of e-waste was generated in the country in the year 2005, which is expected to increase to about 8.0 lakh MT by 2012. As per the Inventory Assessment Manual of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2007; it is estimated that e-waste generation in European Union is about 14 to 15 kg per capita per annum. In countries like China and India, annual generation per capita is less than 1 kg.

(c) & (d) The E-waste disposal practices in Western countries are based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) concept. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes, which include e-waste. As per these Rules, units handling e-waste are required to register with CPCB. The waste generated is required to be sent or sold to a registered or authorized recycler or re-processor or re-user having environmentally sound facilities for recovery of metals, plastics, etc. The Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste published by CPCB in 2008 provide approach and methodology for environmentally sound management of e-waste. These include details such as e-waste composition and recycle potential of items of economic value, identification of possible hazardous contents in e-waste, the recycle, re-use and recovery options, treatment and disposal options and the environmentally sound e-waste treatment technologies. The Guidelines emphasize the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility.