

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 848
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

New sites for landfills

848. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noted the fact that many landfills across the country are exhausted and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) lack the finances to procure new land for the purpose; and
- (b) if so, the details of the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government keeping in mind that finding new sites also faces strong opposition from different stakeholders due to deterioration of nearby environmental resources and health risks?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b): The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, provide the statutory framework for management of solid waste in the country. As per the Annual Report of Central Pollution Control Board for the year 2020-21 on the Implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules-2016, there are 1924 sites identified for development of landfills across the country, 305 landfills have already been constructed, 126 landfills are under construction, 341 are in operation, 17 landfills are exhausted and 11 landfills have been capped. Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, additional central assistance is provided for development of solid waste management infrastructure including sanitary landfill etc., as per guidelines.

Further the rules mandate that the sanitary landfill sites shall meet the specifications given in Schedule-I of the rules, which includes criteria for (i) site selection including distance from river, pond, habitation (ii) pollution prevention, (iii) air and water quality monitoring, and (iv) operation of landfill and closure on completion of landfilling. The rules also mandate that a buffer zone is maintained restricting any residential, commercial or any other construction activity from the outer boundary of the waste processing and disposal facilities handling more than five tonnes per day of solid waste. Central Pollution Control Board has published in 2019 "Guidelines on the provision of buffer zone around waste processing and disposal facilities".
