

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 852
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

Unscientific recycling of e-waste

852. DR. C.M. RAMESH:

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

- (a) whether at present e-waste recycling is handled in a most unprofessional and unscientific manner which poses a threat to ecology and environment;
- (b) the steps taken by Government in this regard, if so the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government propose to constitute an Expert Committee to examine e-waste recycling in a time bound manner, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The electrical and electronic equipment after their useful life when they become e-waste, may not cause any harm to health and environment if it is stored and processed in scientific and environmentally sound manner. However, if un-scientific and crude methods are used for processing for retrieval of useful components or material or if the material is disposed in open, then it may cause health risks and damage to environment. Under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, collection and processing of e-waste can be carried out only by producers or their authorised associates/ partners, authorised dismantlers, recyclers and authorised refurbisher. Further, Ministry has comprehensively revised the previous set of Rules and notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 in November, 2022 and the same is enforce since 1st April, 2023.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has time to time advised State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) /Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to carry out regular drives for checking e-waste processing in informal sector. Actions, such as, constitution of teams for carrying out drives, issuing of notices, closure of operation, seizing the e-waste against the informal processing are being taken by the respective SPCBs/PCCs.

(c) As per the provisions of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, Steering Committee has been constituted in CPCB to oversee the overall implementation, monitoring and supervision of these rules. The Steering Committee inter-alia shall take all such measures as it deems necessary for proper implementation of the provisions of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022.
