

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

Bio-medical and e-waste generated in the country

*264. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment of bio-medical waste and e-waste generated in the country during 2023-24 and 2024-25;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the details of efforts being made by Government to dispose of the hazardous medical and e-waste generated in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 264 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2024 RAISED BY SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

(a) & (b) The estimated quantity of E-Waste generated during FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 is 1.75 million tonnes and 1.94 million tonnes respectively. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is in the process of finalizing the quantity of generation of Bio-Medical Waste for the FY 2023-24 and 2024-25.

(c) The following are the efforts made by the Government for effective implementation of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 and Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016:

E-Waste Management: Ministry has comprehensively revised the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 and notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 in November, 2022 and the same is in force since 1st April, 2023. These new rules intend to manage e-waste in an environmentally sound manner and put in place an improved Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime for e-waste recycling wherein all the manufacturers, producers, refurbishers and recyclers are required to register on portal developed by the Central Pollution Control Board. The new provisions would facilitate and channelize the informal sector into a formal sector for doing business and ensure recycling of E-waste in an environmentally sound manner. Provisions for levy of environmental compensation and verification & audit have also been introduced. These rules also promote Circular Economy through EPR regime and scientific recycling/disposal of the e-waste. Following are the efforts made by the Government for effective implementation of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022:

(i) CPCB has developed an online EPR Portal for the management of e-waste. The Portal has provisions for registration of producers, manufacturers, recyclers and refurbishers of e-waste. The Portal also serves as a platform for the transaction of EPR credits between producers, recyclers and refurbishers for the fulfilment of EPR obligations of producers.

(ii) CPCB has issued directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 30th January 2024 to all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for carrying out drives for identifying informal/ illegal e-waste recyclers/refurbishers including clusters/areas where such illegal recyclers/refurbishers are operating. It has also been requested to close such informal recycling/refurbishing Unit immediately and to transform such informal/illegal recyclers/refurbishers into formal recyclers/refurbishers and to bring them under consent mechanism by way of providing necessary technical support, hand holding, integrating with schemes in the SPCBs/PCCs etc.

(iii) CPCB has also issued directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 19th February 2024 to all SPCBs/PCCs to issue notice to all the recyclers of e-waste who are recycling but not uploading requisite documents, invoices for generation of EPR certificates on the EPR portals and to withdraw/suspend/cancel consent to operate (CTO) of such recyclers for non-compliance. The documents/invoices/information uploaded by the recyclers on the EPR Portals for quantity of waste procured/collected/imported, recycled, end product produced and sold for generation of EPR certificates along with their installed plant & machinery and their capacities and capabilities are being verified.

(iv) SPCBs have been regularly verifying producers, recyclers and refurbishers of e-waste using parameters and methodology developed by CPCB. CPCB is also randomly carrying out inspections of producers, recyclers and refurbishers.

(v) Following guidelines have been prepared and issued by CPCB under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022:

- Guidelines for recyclers and refurbishers of E-Waste providing guidance on environmentally sound recycling and refurbishing.
- Guidelines for determination of processing capacity of E-Waste recycling facility by State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.
- Environmental Compensation guidelines for violations/ non-compliances of these rules.

(vi) CPCB is carrying out regular training on E-Waste EPR Portal for management of E-Waste and regularly organizing public meetings for resolving the stakeholder issues.

Bio-Medical Waste Management: The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change notified the Bio-Medical Waste Management (BMWM) Rules, 2016, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which stipulates provisions for treatment and disposal of bio-medical waste in an environmentally sound manner. Bio-medical waste generated is required to be treated and disposed of in line with BMWM Rules, 2016. The said rules stipulate that the health care facilities (HCFs) shall hand over the segregated bio-medical waste to the Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) for further treatment and disposal. The generated bio-medical waste shall be treated and disposed of as per the treatment options given under Schedule I in compliance with standards prescribed for incinerator stack emission, standard for treated effluent, standard for autoclave/microwave/hydroclave and chemical disinfection under Schedule II of said Rules.

CPCB has also issued the following guidelines to facilitate the stakeholders for ensuring treatment and disposal of biomedical waste in line with BMWM Rules, 2016:

1. Guidelines for Monitoring Performance of Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs) by SPCBs/PCCs.
2. Guidelines for handling, treatment and disposal of waste generated during treatment, diagnostics, and quarantine of COVID-19 patients.
3. Guidelines for "Imposition of Environmental Compensation against HCFs and CBWTFs".
4. Guidelines for Verification of Two Seconds Residence Time in the Secondary Combustion Chamber of the Biomedical Waste Incinerator.
5. Guidelines for Handling of Biomedical Waste for Utilization.
6. Guidelines for Management of Healthcare Waste in Health Care Facilities as per Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.
7. Guidelines for Bar Code System for Effective Management of Bio-Medical Waste.
8. Revised Guidelines for Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities.
9. Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Waste Generated from Health Care Facilities.
