

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1323**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

**Management of WtE plants**

1323. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI SUBHASH BARALA:  
SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:  
SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:  
SHRI BRIJ LAL:

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

- (a) the manner in which the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) August 2025 guidelines for Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plants are being enforced to manage residual ash and leachate;
- (b) the details of Ministry's plans to standardise the methodology for assessing and imposing Environmental Compensatory Damages (EDC) as per the said guidelines;
- (c) whether the Ministry has set up a unified digital platform for State Pollution Control Boards to track real-time compliance from WtE plants and industries in critically polluted areas; and
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry is ensuring that auto-renewal of Consents to Operate (CTO) does not reduce monitoring frequency or environmental safeguards?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

**(a) & (b):** Schedule II of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, prescribes standards of processing and treatment of solid waste including standards for emission from incinerators / thermal technologies in solid waste treatment and disposal facilities. It has been mandated that if the concentration of toxic metals in incineration ash exceeds the limits specified in the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2008, as amended from time to time, the ash is sent to the hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility. Further, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued draft Guidelines on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration-based Waste-to-Energy Plants for public consultation. The Guidelines have separate section on leachate management covering leachate collection and transfer to a dedicated Leachate Treatment Plant for systematic treatment before reuse or further processing. The Guidelines also have separate section on bottom ash and fly ash management. In cases where, bottom ash and fly ash are found to be non-hazardous as per SWM Rules, 2016, modalities for

recycling, reuse, disposal as applicable, have been provided. Separately, a draft report on Environmental Damage Cost Assessment (EDCA) has been prepared and placed in public domain for consultation.

**(c):** Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions to all State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committee under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, on 12.8.2025 for installation of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) for self-surveillance of MSW incineration based Waste to Energy Plants (WtE). The State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committee have to ensure that all operational and upcoming MSW incineration based Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plants within their jurisdiction install and operate Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) for real-time monitoring and that all monitoring systems installed under this directive are connected in real-time to the respective SPCB/PCC's servers and the Central Pollution Control Board's Online Monitoring server within three months from the date of issuance of the direction.

For strengthening monitoring and compliance through self-regulatory mechanism, CPCB has directed all 17 categories of highly polluting industries, since 2015, to install Online Continuous Effluent/ Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS). The real-time values of environmental pollutants of the effluent and emissions are transmitted online to CPCB and concerned SPCB/PCC. In case value of pollutant parameter exceeds the prescribed environmental norms, an SMS alert is generated and sent to industrial unit and respective SPCB /PCC, so that corrective measures can be taken by the industry immediately and appropriate action can be taken by concerned SPCB/PCC in case of persistent violation.

**(d):** The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in consultation with the CPCB, has notified Guidelines for the Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, respectively. These guidelines establish a uniform consent mechanism introducing streamlined, single-step procedure for obtaining consent and authorization. The guidelines prescribe timelines for grant or refusal of consent within the specified period based upon categorization of units into Red, Orange or Green Category.

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