

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1335
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Impact recycling of electronic goods

1335. DR. BHIM SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has any updated national level data on the adverse impacts on the environment and public health caused by illegal recycling units of the total e-waste generated annually in the country; and
- (b) the concrete and integrated action plan being implemented by Government to strictly enforce e-waste management rules, strengthen Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) and ensure the safe collection and recycling of obsolete electronic goods in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Ministry has notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 in November, 2022 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 after comprehensive revision of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, and the same are in force since 1st April, 2023. These rules provide for managing e-waste in an environmentally sound manner and putting in place an improved Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime for e-waste recycling, wherein, all the manufacturer, producer, refurbisher and recycler are required to register on portal developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). These rules promote Circular Economy through EPR regime and scientific recycling/disposal of the e-waste.

Under Rule 24 of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, there is provision for verification and audit by the CPCB or through a designated agency, to verify compliance of these Rules through random inspection and periodic audit, as deemed appropriate, so as to take action against violations of these Rules. CPCB has developed an audit module in the E-Waste EPR portal for carrying out audit through mobile app and web application. CPCB has developed guidelines for levying Environmental Compensation (EC) under the rules and the same is available at E-waste EPR portal. CPCB has also issued direction on 03.07.2026 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, wherein, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) have been directed to carry out audits of recyclers in phased manner. Further, under Schedule-V of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, SPCBs/ PCCs have been given the responsibility to monitor compliance of EPR and conduct random inspection of recycler and refurbisher and monitoring recycling capacity utilization. Information on such violations is maintained by the respective SPCBs/PCCs. An Action Plan for implementation of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 has been prepared by CPCB in September, 2022. As per the Action Plan, CPCB and SPCBs/PCCs are undertaking measures to facilitate the collection, channelization

and recycling of e-waste. CPCB has also issued directions to States/UTs to encourage the establishment of e-waste recycling facilities in regions where such facilities are limited compared to the quantum of e-waste generated.

Electrical and electronic equipment, upon reaching the end of its useful life and becoming e-waste, does not pose a significant risk to human health or the environment when it is collected, stored, transported, dismantled, recycled, and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the provisions of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 and the guidelines issued thereunder. However, if unscientific and crude methods are used for processing for retrieval of useful components or materials or if the material is disposed in the open, then it may cause health risks and pollute and damage the environment.
