

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2934
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

Decontamination of hazardous sites

2934. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has collaborated or plans to collaborate with international organizations or experts in the field of decontamination and site restoration and the outcomes or expectations from such collaborations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of steps being taken to prevent the creation of new hazardous/contaminant sites, including regulatory measures and enforcement mechanisms;
- (e) whether the Ministry has not yet initiated decontamination efforts at certain sites and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the details of measures being considered to expedite the process; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India has notified the “Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025 (EPMCS Rules, 2025)” under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, vide notification dated 24 July 2025. The Rules also provide for the empanelment of Reference Organizations (ROs) for undertaking site assessment and remediation activities in accordance with prescribed technical standards and procedures. Accordingly, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has empanelled 21 Reference Organizations having requisite capabilities and experience in these areas.

(d): For the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste the Government of India has notified the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 (HOWM Rule, 2016) in supersession of the earlier Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per the said rules, the handling, generation, collection, storage, packaging, transportation, use, treatment, processing, recycling, recovery, pre-processing, co-processing, utilisation, offering for sale, transfer or disposal of the hazardous and other waste are to be carried out only after obtaining an authorization from the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) and in accordance with the procedures laid down under the Rule 6 of

the said Rules. The rules also provide the duties of concerned authorities. Further, as per the Rule 23 of the said Rules, the occupier, importer or exporter and operator of the disposal facility are liable to pay financial penalties for violation of the provisions under these rules as levied by concerned State Pollution Control Board/Committee with prior approval of CPCB.

(e) to (g): The EPMCS Rules, 2025, prescribe regulatory measures for prevention of contamination and timely management of contaminated sites. The Rules place the primary responsibility for site assessment, remediation and restoration on the concerned occupier, operator or polluter in accordance with the "Polluter Pays" principle. The Rules also provide a structured, time-bound mechanism for (i) Identification of suspected and probable contaminated sites, (ii) Preliminary Site Assessment, (iii) Detailed Site Assessment, (iv) Preparation and approval of remediation plans, (v) Implementation of remediation measures, and (vi) Post-remediation monitoring. Remediation of 7 sites in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat is being implemented by responsible parties under the close supervision and monitoring of respective Pollution Control Boards/Central Pollution Control Boards.
