

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 71
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2026**

WASTE SEGREGATION AT SOURCE

71. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

Will the Minister of *Housing and Urban Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the persistent problem of poor waste segregation at source and indiscriminate dumping of garbage on streets and public spaces in urban areas across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether adequate penalties and enforcement mechanisms are in place to deter littering and illegal disposal of waste in public spaces and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to fix individual and institutional responsibility for waste segregation at source including public awareness campaigns, door-to-door collection systems and capacity-building of ULBs?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (c): Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 has been launched on 1st October, 2021 with the vision of Garbage Free Status for all cities through source segregation, door-to-door collection and scientific waste management of all fractions of waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites in the urban areas of the country. As reported by States/UTs on Swachhattam portal, door-to-door waste collection has reached 97% of wards and overall waste processing capacity has increased from 16% in 2014 to 81% presently.

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 effective from 1st April, 2026, mandate four-stream segregation of waste at source and restrict landfilling strictly to non-recyclable, non-energy recoverable waste and inert material. Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) have been assigned specific responsibility for collection, segregation, transportation and processing of waste in an environmentally sound manner within their premises, while Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are responsible for ensuring compliance and managing waste within their jurisdiction as per the prescribed provisions. Under SWM Rules, 2026, the criteria for levy of spot fines for littering are decided by ULBs as per their bye-laws.

MoHUA has issued National Behaviour Change Communication Framework to provide knowledge and awareness to States and ULBs on new mediums of engagement, approaches to various kinds of messaging, design of campaigns, and mobilizing diverse stakeholders through strategic collaboration/ partnerships to scale up initiatives. Under Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component of SBM-U 2.0, intensive public engagement campaigns are being taken up through ward-level drives and door-to-door advocacy by Swachhata Doots, Self-Help Groups and Resident Welfare Associations etc. Also, ULBs are encouraged to undertake Zero Waste activities in colonies at festivals, public gatherings, markets and institutional events, wherein source segregation, on-site composting and material recovery are demonstrated to ensure litter-free public spaces.
