

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 6612
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Landfill Management Policy

6612. SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering a Landfill Management Policy to manage the Landfill Sites in and around the Metro Cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including its salient features;
- (c) whether the present landfill sites are un-engineered, unscientific and therefore catch fire at times and contaminate ground water, besides occupying expensive land in the heart of commercially important locations of the cities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether a landfill site must not exceed 20 meters in height, must not be older than 22-25 years and must have a clay-lining at the bottom to save the land and ground water, according to the 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) and (b) The Government has comprehensively revised the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 and has notified Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, which provides specifications for sanitary landfills with criteria for site selection, development of facilities at sanitary landfill site, land filling operations, pollution abatement, water and air quality monitoring, plantation at landfill site, closure and rehabilitation of old dumps etc. The Rules promote disposal of only non-usable, non-recyclable, non-biodegradable, non-combustible, non-reactive inert waste, pre-processing rejects and residues from waste processing facilities at sanitary landfill sites, to minimize quantity of waste to be sent to the landfill sites. The waste for land filling is required to be compacted in thin layers using heavy compactors besides covering of landfill cell at the end of each working day. Besides, it stipulates proper drainage and proper closure.

(c) and (d) The Rules prescribe that the sanitary landfill sites has to be set up as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Central Pollution Control Board. The fire hazards and water pollution are more prevalent in case of open dumping. The

Rules further prescribe to investigate and analyse all old open dumpsites and existing operational dumpsites for their potential of bio-mining and bio-remediation. In absence of the potential of bio-mining and bio-remediation of dumpsite, these can be scientifically capped as per landfill capping norms to prevent further damage to the environment.

(e) As per the provision of the Rules, the landfill site shall be large enough to last for at least 20-25 years and develop 'landfill cells' in a phased manner to avoid water logging and misuse. For prevention of pollution, non-permeable lining system can be provided at the base and the walls of waste disposal area. For landfill receiving residues of waste processing facilities or mixed waste or waste having contamination of hazardous materials, the liner of composite barrier of 1.5 mm thick high density polyethylene (HDPE) geo-membrane or geo-synthetic liners, overlying 90 cm of soil (clay or amended soil) having permeability coefficient not greater than 1×10^{-7} cm/sec has to be provided.
