

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2806
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2018

E-waste Recyclers

2806. SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM:

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

- (a) whether the number of E-waste recyclers/dismantlers in the country is inadequate and any Committee has also made observations in this regard and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of authorized E-waste recyclers/dismantlers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to increase the coverage of Extended Producer's Responsibility under the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including amendment to the rules to incorporate internationally recognized best practices; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to extract gold from E-waste and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per the information available with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 275 dismantlers/recyclers/refurbishes have been granted authorization by 16 State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). These authorized dismantlers /recyclers /refurbishes are having equipment and facilities for environmentally sound processing of e-waste. The cumulative annual processing capacity of these units are 5,10,950.1 MT. As per estimate by UN University, the annual generation of e-waste in India is approximately 2 million metric tons in 2016.

(c) & (d) The Ministry has notified E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 on 23rd March 2016 which supersedes the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011. The Rules were further amended for its effective implementation in March, 2018. In the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, various provisions have been made for sound management of e-waste in the country including the provision of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR), under which producers of listed electronic and electrical equipment are responsible for collection and channelization for recycling of their end of life products. A step-wise procedure for seeking and granting EPR authorization has been clearly elucidated. As per the

provisions of EPR authorization every producer of electrical and electronic equipment listed in Schedule – I of the Rules has to make an application for EPR authorization to CPCB by submitting an EPR plan, on the receipt of which CPCB will carry out evaluation of the EPR plan submitted by the producer and on being satisfied that the producer has detailed out an effective plan for collection and fulfilment of his responsibility will grant the EPR authorization. A target-based approach has been adopted on the basis of existing international best practices which indicates that a target-based mechanism ensures better implementation of the e-waste management practices. The year wise collection targets are 10% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in EPR plan for 2017-18 followed by a 10% increase in every following years up to 70%. Further, collection targets have also been introduced for new producers. The collection target of e-waste for the new producers for the year 2018-19 shall be 5% of the sales figure of financial year 2016-17, followed by a 5% increase every two years until 2025. Thereafter, the collection target for the new producers shall be 20% of the sales figure of the year preceding the previous year. The producers have been given the flexibility to adopt a mechanism for implementation of EPR among various options, such as setting up collection centers or adopting a buy-back mechanism or constitute deposit refund scheme etc. Producers can also set up Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO) or e-waste exchange as additional channel for implementation of EPR for efficient channelization of e-waste.

(e) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), being the nodal Ministry for Electronics and IT, is involved in developing technology to recycle e-waste in an environment sound manner. MeitY is promoting research and development (R&D) to develop technological solutions for e-waste management in environment friendly manner. The processing technology, including recycling of e-waste through physical separation, chemical leaching methods as well as recovery of precious metals through pyrolysis process from PCBs had been developed under various R&D projects. Utilizing this technology, MeitY has set up a demonstration plant at Bengaluru with participation from State Government of Karnataka, where organized and unorganized sector would utilize the facility to process printed circuit board (PCB) in safe environmentally sound method. The demonstration plant has so far processed nearly 50 MT of PCB from 750 MT of e-waste.
