GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 782 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

Electronic Waste

782. SHRI KUNDARIYA MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI:

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

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given direction to conduct an inspection of the premises of power distribution companies where electronic waste (e-waste) is being collected by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken therein;
- (c) whether the e-waste is causing air pollution in the area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) In pursuance of the directions of the Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) had jointly inspected twenty installations of power distribution companies in March-April, 2017 and reported non availability of any stock of e-waste except at Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, Mangolpuri. The joint report was submitted to the Hon'ble NGT.
- (c) & (d) Disposal of e-waste without processing it in an environmentally sound manner may result in pollution. However, such incidence of air pollution from the premises of power distribution companies due to collection of e-waste is not reported. The Government has notified E-Waste (Management) Rules in March, 2016 for providing environmentally sound systems for disposal of e-waste. The Rules assign responsibility to producers of electrical and electronic equipment for collection and channelizing of electronic waste in the form of extended producer responsibility (EPR), setting up of producer responsibility organizations (PROs) and e-waste collection centres. Power firms are the bulk consumers of the electrical and electronic equipment. The rules assign specific responsibility to bulk consumers for safe disposal of electrical and electronic equipment and other measures which include maintaining records and filing annual returns to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.
