

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION No. 367**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

**Release of Toxic Air from Waste Treatment Plant**

\*367. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the continuous burning and release of toxic air from Brahmapuram Waste Treatment Plant in Cochin leading to poisonous fumes spreading through Ernakulam district and passing to Alappuzha and nearby districts;
- (b) whether the Government has sought a report from the State Government of Kerala about the release of persistent organic pollutants, dioxins, and mercury from Brahmapuram Waste Treatment plant, likely to cause cancer and neurological damage especially to infants and serious health issues to expecting mothers, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala is being provided technical assistance by the Union Government in containing the toxic haze;
- (d) whether the Government intends to ban practice of open dumping of waste and promote modern waste treatment plants instead; and
- (e) if so, the details of funds allocated for the same during the last three years and the current year to Kerala?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 367 to be answered on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 on “Release of Toxic Air from Waste Treatment Plant” by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Hon’ble Member of Parliament.**

(a): A fire accident on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 was reported in the media at the Solid Waste Dumping Facility of Cochin Corporation situated at Brahmapuram, Cochin, Kerala. The smoke emanated from the burning waste was dispersed due to strong winds predominantly from west to east direction. It has been reported that smoke covered Cochin city and adjoining areas in the vicinity.

(b): Central Pollution Control Board along with officials from Kerala State Pollution Control Board have conducted site visit of municipal solid waste dumping facility of Cochin Corporation situated at Brahmapuram, Cochin, Kerala on 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. As per Kerala State Pollution Control Board steps have been taken for assessment of dioxin and furan in ambient air.

(c) to (e): As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the local authorities and village panchayats of census towns and urban agglomerations, shall allow only the non-usable, non-recyclable, non-biodegradable, non-combustible and non-reactive inert waste and pre-processing rejects and residues from waste processing facilities to go to sanitary landfill sites. The rules further stipulate that every effort shall be made to recycle or reuse the rejects to achieve the desired objective of zero waste going to landfill.

Further, the local authorities and village panchayats of census towns and urban agglomerations, have been mandated to investigate and analyse all old open dumpsites and existing operational dumpsites for their potential of biomining and bio-remediation and wheresover, feasible, take necessary actions to bio-mine or bio-remediate the sites. The Guidelines for Disposal of Legacy Waste (Old Municipal Solid Waste) have been issued by Central Pollution Control Board. Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have also been issued by Central Pollution Control Board to all State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees for enforcement of provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, regarding biomining of legacy waste.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 in October 2021, inter alia with an objective of 100 % scientific management of all fractions of waste, remediation of all legacy dumpsites and converting them into green zones. The details of Central Share of funds allocated and released to the Kerala for Solid Waste Management under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban is given below:

<b>Allocation under SBM – U (2014-2021)</b>	<b>Allocation under SBM - U <a href="#">2.0 (2021-26)</a></b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
219.99 Cr	875.10 Cr	0.00 Cr	0.00 Cr	1.88 Cr	26.51 Cr

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