

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3008
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023

Data on Methane Emissions

3008. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:
SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL:
SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNADEVARAYALU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data on methane emissions in the country from landfills;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has adopted technologies for mitigation of waste-related emissions such as methane;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has set any guidelines/deadlines/monitoring mechanisms for the treatment of landfills;
- (f) if so, whether there are any mechanisms in place to check the same; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b) As per third Biennial Update Report submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 59,372 Gigagram (Gg) of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) reached landfills in India, resulting in 754 (Gg) of Methane in the year 2016.

(c) and (d) The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 emphasize on segregation of waste at source and handing over of segregated waste, as specified by the local body. As per the rules, preference is required to be given to decentralised processing for gainful utilisation and minimizing the environmental impacts using bio-methanation, microbial composting, vermi-composting, anaerobic digestion or any other appropriate processing for bio-stabilisation of biodegradable wastes and use of waste to energy processes including refused derived fuel for combustible fraction of waste or supply as feedstock to solid waste based power plants or cement kilns.

Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) is being implemented with a vision of achieving “Garbage Free cities” status for all cities which, inter alia, involves, remediation of all existing landfills/ legacy dumpsites by 2026. Through initiatives like ‘The GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) Dhan Scheme’, New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme, cattle waste utilisation is being incentivised, in addition to production of clean energy in villages. The GOBAR-Dhan Scheme, inter alia, supports biodegradable waste recovery and conversion of waste into resources and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

(e) to (g) The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 provide the statutory framework for management of solid waste in the country. The Schedule I of the rules provides specification for sanitary landfills, which includes criteria for (i) site selection (ii) development of facilities at the sanitary landfill (iii) criteria for pollution prevention including leachate management (iv) air and water quality monitoring including landfill gas control system to minimize odour and prevent off-site migration of gases, and (v) operation of landfill and closure on completion of landfilling. The criteria for closure of and rehabilitation of old waste dumps have also been prescribed under the Rules.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has also issued guidelines for Disposal of Legacy Waste (Old Municipal Solid Waste). Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have been issued to all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for enforcement of provisions of the Rules, regarding bio-mining of legacy waste. Under Swachh Bharat Mission – *Grameen* Phase II, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued operational guidelines to the States and Union Territories (UTs) which include solid waste management activities at the village level.

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 also provide for responsibilities of the concerned Central Ministries, Departments in States and UTs, CPCB, SPCBs and PCCs in terms of the implementation of these rules in the country, overall monitoring of environmental standards and adherence to conditions for waste processing and disposal sites, etc.

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