

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 468
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

E-Waste Management

468. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:
SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL:
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has entrusted the State Governments with the responsibility of earmarking industrial locations for E-Waste removal and recycling facilities, industrial skill development and ensuring health and safety arrangements for workers engaged in E-Waste removal and recycling facilities;
- (b) whether E-Waste contains innumerable toxic substances that contaminate the soil and ground water;
- (c) whether the Government has directed the start-ups and companies in the country to start collecting and recycling electronic waste; and
- (d) if so, the details of the start-ups and companies assisting the Government on the said matter in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Gujarat and Jharkhand?

ANSWER

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

(a) The management of E-Waste in India is being regulated through E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 and its amendment notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Further, Ministry has notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 on 2nd November, 2022. These rules will replace E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 with effect from 1st April, 2023.

As per the E-Waste (Management) Rules, the Department of Industry in the State and Union Territory or any other government agency authorised in this regard by the State Government or the Union Territory, as the case may be, shall ensure earmarking or allocation of industrial space or shed for e-waste dismantling and recycling in the existing and upcoming industrial park, estate and industrial clusters. Further, Department of Labor in

the State and Union Territory or any other government agency authorised in this regard by the State Government or the Union Territory, as the case may be, shall, -

- a) ensure recognition and registration of workers involved in dismantling and recycling;
- b) assist formation of groups of such workers to facilitate setting up of dismantling facilities;
- c) undertake industrial skill development activities for the workers involved in dismantling and recycling;
- d) undertake annual monitoring and to ensure safety and health of workers involved in dismantling and recycling.

(b) E-waste contains precious and semi-precious materials such as 'silver, gold, platinum, palladium and plastics, iron, glass, aluminum, and copper etc.'. It also contains hazardous and toxic substances such as 'lead, cadmium, mercury, polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs), etched chemicals, brominated flame retardants (BFR), arsenic, asbestos and nickel etc. E-Waste, may not cause any harm to health and environment if it is handled in environmentally sound manner. In case, un-scientific and crude methods are used in processing for the retrieval of useful components or materials or if e-waste is disposed in open, then it may cause health risks and damage to environment.

(c) & (d) The management of E-Waste under these Rules is primarily based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Under EPR, the producers of notified Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) have been given responsibility of recycling targets. In E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 (effective from 1st April, 2023), a market based mechanism for implementation of EPR has been prescribed. It will facilitate establishment for collection and recycling of e-waste.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board, there are 567 numbers of e-waste recyclers/dismantlers located in 22 States having a cumulative annual processing capacity of 17,22,624.27 tonnes per annum in the country including Madhya Pradesh (03 recyclers/dismantlers having capacity of 13,600 tonnes/annum), Jammu and Kashmir (03 recyclers/dismantlers having capacity of 705 tonnes/annum), Gujarat (40 recyclers/dismantlers having capacity of 1,20,130.92 tonnes/annum) and Jharkhand (02 recyclers/dismantlers having capacity of 660 tonnes/annum). There is no e-waste recycler/dismantler located in Bihar.
