GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1257 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

Scientific Waste Treatment Facilities

1257. DR. M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to develop scientific waste treatment facilities in each district of the State of Kerala to ensure the safe handling of hazardous materials and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the existing facilities for the treatment of hospital wastes deemed adequate; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to upgrade these facilities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Government of India has notified the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) [HOWM] Rules, 2016, to ensure safe handling, storage, recycling, utilisation, treatment and disposal of industrial hazardous and other wastes in an environmentally sound manner without causing adverse effect to environment and human health. As per the Rule 16.(1) of the HOWM Rules, the State Government, occupier, operator of a facility or any association of occupiers shall individually or jointly or severally be responsible for identification of sites for establishing the facility for treatment, storage and disposal of the hazardous and other wastes in the State.

As per the Central Pollution Board (CPCB), there is 01 common hazardous waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) having secured landfills facility for disposal of hazardous waste available in the State of Kerala. During, 2021-22 about 18,699 MT of HW has been disposed in the secured landfill (SLF). The authorized capacity of landfill facility is 50,000 MTA and operational since 2003. As per the information received from the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on generation and disposal of industrial hazardous waste in SLFs, capacity of Common SLF will cater the disposal of hazardous waste for next 08 years. Hence, District wise facilities for disposal of industrial hazardous waste many not be required.

Further, Government of India has notified the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 which stipulate provision for treatment and disposal of biomedical waste in an environmentally sound manner. As per the said Rules, the healthcare facilities are required to handover the segregated biomedical waste to Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs) for further treatment and disposal. As per the Annual Report

Information on Biomedical Waste Management for year 2021 received from KSPCB, the biomedical waste generation is 62 tons/day which is treated and disposed off through 2 nos. of CBWTFs having total capacity of 71.8 tons/day as well as captive treatment facilities installed by 44 nos. of healthcare facilities.

The CBWTFs cater to the requirements in every district of Kerala for treatment and disposal of biomedical waste. The treatment capacity of the installed CBWTFs is adequate to dispose of biomedical waste generated by healthcare facilities located in all 14 Districts of Kerala. As per information received from KSPCB, an integrated Consent to Establish has been issued to set up new CBWTF at Adoor for treatment and disposal of biomedical waste generated in State of Kerala.
