

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2139  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**GUIDELINES TO MANAGE BIO-MEDICAL WASTE**

**2139. SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to manage biomedical waste generated in the hospitals due to treatment of patients affected by COVID-19, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government of Telangana is following the protocol mandated for disposal of biomedical waste generated in COVID-19 hospitals in the State, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government/Indian Medical Association have received any complaints from doctors in the COVID-19 hospitals of Telangana State in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) As informed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Corona Virus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) related bio-medical waste can be disposed safely with existing infrastructure complying with provisions under Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. However, realizing Pandemic situation, CPCB has prepared the guidelines for 'Handling, Treatment & Disposal of bio-medical waste generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 patients'. These guidelines were initially issued on 19.03.2019, thereafter revised depending on ground situation and evolving technical guidance. Last revision of guidelines was issued on 17.07.2020.

Further, CPCB has also issued guidelines on 15.09.2020, for monitoring of Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (CBWTFs) to ensure safe handling and disposal of bio-medical waste.

(b) CPCB developed waste tracking App named "COVID19BWM". Both Android Mobile and Web versions of software application were designed for waste generators, Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility (CBWTF) Operators, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). 1st version of the App has been introduced and a demonstration was given to SPCBs/PCCs and other stakeholders in May, 2020. SPCBs including Telangana State Pollution Control Board were directed to ensure usage of Tracking App:

- 8 out of 11 CBWTFs located in Telangana State are using the aforesaid Tracking App. CPCB vide its letter dated 21.07.2020 issued Show Cause Notice to remaining 3 CBWTFs for not using Tracking App.
- Directions under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, were also issued to Telangana SPCB vide letter dated 11.08.2020, to ensure compliance to CPCB guidelines for effective management of bio-medical waste.
- 160 COVID-19 waste generators are registered on Tracking Application.

(c) As informed by CPCB and Indian Medical Association (IMA), no such complaints from doctors in the COVID-19 hospitals of Telangana State have been received.