

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3916
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

Recycling of E-Waste

3916. SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL(BAKABHAI):
SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANIL BHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether most of the recycling work of e-waste in the country is carried out in non-formal sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps in the direction of finding out solution to the problems related to e-waste and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has made investment to develop such undetrimental production design and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of workers engaged in e-waste recycling?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) & (b) Government is alive to the fact that the recycling of E-Waste is carried out in informal sector, which is illegal and a criminal offence. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has time to time advised State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) /Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to carry out regular drives for checking E-Waste processing in informal sector and reports are obtained quarterly. Actions, such as, constitution of teams for carrying out drives, issuing of notices, closure of operation, seizing the E-Waste against the informal processing are being taken by the SPCBs/PCCs.

Seventeen SPCBs/ PCCs have started the drive during FY 2020-2021 (till second quarter). Twelve (12) SPCBs/PCCs namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura and West Bengal have reported that they have started the drive against informal recycling and reported that during this period no such activity was found in their States/UTs. Five (5) SPCBs/PCCs namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Delhi, Puducherry and Uttar Pradesh have taken action against the informal recycling. Details of actions are given at **Annexure – I**:

(c) The management of e-waste is regulated under the frame work of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 and amendments there off. The said rules are effective from 01.10.2016 and have the following specific objectives:

- (i) Extended Responsibility to producers to manage a system of E-waste collection, storage, transportation and environmentally sound dismantling and recycling through EPR Authorization (EPRA).
- (ii) To promote and encourage establishment of an efficient e-waste collection mechanism.
- (iii) To promote Environmentally Safe & Sound Recycling through authorized dismantlers and recyclers of e-waste.
- (iv) To minimize illegal recycling / recovery operations.
- (v) Reduce Hazardous substances in Electrical and Electronic components.

Under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the producers of Electrical and Electronic Equipments (EEE) listed in the Schedule-I of rules have been given responsibility of management of their products once they have attained end of life. As per the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, CPCB is issuing EPR authorization to the producers of EEE along with e-waste collection targets on annual basis. As per the information provided by CPCB, as on date, 1704 Producers have been granted EPR Authorization. Registration to 48 Producers Responsibility Organizations (PROs) have been granted so far. 407 dismantlers/recyclers of E-Waste have authorization and their annual processing capacity is 11,10,103.22 tonne.

For enforcement of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 in the country, an action plan is in place and the same is being implemented by all SPCBs/PCCs in their respective states/UTs. SPCBs/PCCs are submitting quarterly progress report as envisaged in the Action Plan through a web portal developed for this purpose.

(d) With a view to reduce the use of hazardous substances in the manufacture of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and in their components or consumables or parts or spares following limits have been prescribed:

- i. Lead (Pb) - 0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
- ii. Mercury (Hg) - 0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
- iii. Cadmium (Cd) - 0.01% by weight in homogeneous material
- iv. Hexavalent chromium (Cr⁶⁺) - 0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
- v. Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) - 0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
- vi. Polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE)- 0.1% by weight in homogeneous material

(c) The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 sub rule 12(2) provides for recognition and registration of workers and their skill development. It also provides for monitoring and ensuring safety and health of workers involved in dismantling and recycling of e-waste.

Annexure - I

S.No.	SPCBs/PCCs	Action taken
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	Notices have been issued to 22 scrap dealers for checking informal trading, storage, dismantling & recycling of E-Waste.
2.	Kerala	Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has seized 207.5 tonnes of E-Waste from informal operators/sector during drive against illegal operators and got it recycled through authorized recycler.
3.	Delhi	<p>Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has reported for the quarter ending 30th September 2020 that for Trans Yamuna area the District Administration under respective Sub-Divisional Magistrates has constituted 9 teams as these areas have large concentration of illegal E-Waste handling units. These teams have inspected 130 premises and found that 31 premises are storing/handling E-Waste and had closed these 31 units and imposed Environmental Compensation (EC) charges. 14 units have deposited the requisite EC and undertook not to carry out illegal activities.</p> <p>For checking informal trading of E-Waste, directions u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 have been issued on 28.05.2019 to all the local bodies/ Delhi Development Authority regarding stoppage of illegal activity of informal trading, dismantling and recycling of E-Waste in their respective areas of jurisdiction. Till 28/09/2020, 124 informal units have been identified and the closures will be carried out only after inventorisation.</p>
4.	Puducherry	Puducherry PCC, reported that it has closed one illegal dismantling and recycling unit.
5.	UP	<p>UP State Pollution Control Board (UPSPCB) reported that one hundred and twenty (120) illegal melting furnace units were found operating in the area around Sewadham, BehtaHazipur, Krishna Vihar of Loni District of Ghaziabad by a joint team of District Administration Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad Development Authority, Ghaziabad Police, Nagar Palika Parishad, Loni & UPSPCB during November, 2019. All these one hundred and twenty (120) illegal units were dismantled and FIR was lodged against 16 persons and 12 units.</p> <p>UPSPCB further informed that in the Moradabad district, 6.850 tonnes of E-Waste were seized and District Administration sealed 05 illegal godowns. Environmental Compensation of 60 Lakhs has been imposed and closure orders have been issued against 04 illegal E-Waste Processing Units.</p>