

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 898
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

Disposal of e-waste

898. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:

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

- (a) whether e-waste is increasing in the country every year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any plan for the disposal of e-waste;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the fact that several workers engaged in the disposal of e-waste have suffered from various diseases including loss of life and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per the information available with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) generation of e-waste is increasing every year. The Government has made provisions for inventorization of e-waste generation across the country under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016. Under the said Rules, the responsibility for inventorization of generation of E-Waste has been assigned to State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).

The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 are effective from 01.10.2016. Accordingly, CPCB has estimated the generation of e-waste at the national level on the basis of sales data of 21 types of notified Electrical & Electronic Equipment (EEE) from Financial Year (FY) 2017-2018. The estimated generation of e-waste during Financial Year (FY) 2017-2018, FY 2018-2019 & FY 2019-2020 is given below:

- For FY 2017-18, the estimated generation of e-waste is 7,08,445 tonnes for 21 types of EEE.
 - For FY 2018-2019, the estimated generation of e-waste is 7,71,215 tonnes for 21 type of EEE.
 - For FY 2019-2020, the estimated generation of e-waste is 10,14,961.2 tonne for 21 types of EEE.
- (b) & (c) For the disposal of E-waste in an environmentally sound manner, Government has notified E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016. The regulations intend at taking all steps required to ensure that e-waste is managed in a manner which shall protect health and environment against any adverse effects, which may result from such e-waste. The said rules are effective from 01.10.2016 and have the following specific objectives:

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

The management of e-waste under the rules is primarily based on the principal of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Under EPR, the producers of EEE listed in the Schedule-I of rules have been given responsibility of management of their products once they have attained end of life. Under the E-Waste Rules, CPCB is issuing EPR authorization to the producers of EEE, wherein they have been given e-waste collection targets on annual basis. 1675 Producers have been given EPR Authorization as on date.

The e-waste collection targets given by CPCB to EPRA producers during the FY 2018-19 was around 1,54,242.74 tonne. Further based on the annual returns submitted by 32 SPCBs/PCCs, around 1,64,663 tonne of e-waste was processed during FY2018-19. There are 407 authorized dismantlers/recyclers of E-Waste in the country having processing capacity of 11,10,103.22 tonne.

(d)& (e) The electronic products and electrical equipment after their useful life do not cause any harm to environment if stored and processed in an environmentally sound manner. However, if the E-waste is opened-up and unscientific methods are used for extraction of precious and semi-precious material from it, then it causes health risks and damage to environment. However, no specific studies to assess the damage caused by e-Waste on Environment have been carried so far.

Under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, the safety and health of workers involved in dismantling and recycling of e-waste has been ensured through department of Labour or any other agency authorized in this regard by the concerned State government. As per the Rule 12(2) of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, Department of Labour in the State or any other government agency authorised in this regard by the State Government shall: is reproduced below:

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