

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2062
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Detection of micro-plastics in ground water

2062. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH;
SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR; REDDY;
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal has been alarmed to see reports that micro-plastics were being detected in ground water samples taken from wells near the dump yards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise in the last four years and current year;
- (c) whether these dump yards lack proper scientific disposals, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (d) the violations noticed/cases booked/action taken/ penalties imposed and purpose for which such penalties are used; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the States and others including concerned companies/PSUs to dispose off the dump yards legacy waste and methods adopted in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years till date?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Hon'ble NGT in its Order dated 16.06.2021 in O.A No. 99/2021 has referred to the article published in Times of India dated 15.06.2021 and observed that micro-plastics have been seen in the groundwater samples near the dump yards in Chennai and other suburb areas.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors ambient water quality under National Water Quality Monitoring Program (NWMP) for the specific sets of parameters identified and micro-plastics is not a part of parameter identified for monitoring.

(c) Unscientifically designed solid waste dump site has potential to contaminate ground water and necessary provisions to contain and regulate the impact have been made in Solid Waste Management (SBM) Rules, 2016, including management of legacy waste.

Total solid waste generation in the country is 150847 TPD, out of which 146053.8 TPD is collected, 70973.2 TPD is treated and 40863.2 TPD goes to landfills. There are 3074 dumpsites in the country. State wise details of such dumpsites is enclosed at Annexure-1.

(d) Hon'ble NGT Vide order dated 02.07.2020 in O.A No. 606/2018 directed Local Body to pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per month per Local Body for population of above 10 lakhs, Rs. 5 lakh per month per Local Body for population between 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per month per other Local Body from 01.04.2020 for continued failure to comply with SWM Rules. Further, local Body which fails to commence the work of legacy waste sites remediation from 01.04.2020 shall be liable to compensation at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per month per Local Body for population of above 10 lakhs, Rs. 5 lakh per month per Local Body for population between 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per month per other Local Body till compliance.

(e) CPCB issued Directions on 27.01.2021, under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for enforcement of provision of Solid Waste Management (Rule), 2016 regarding bio-mining of legacy waste. Also, in compliance of Hon'ble NGT matter of OA no. 606/2018, SPCBs/PCCs have been directed to manage the solid waste in their corresponding State/UT.

About 118 Lakh Tonnes of legacy waste is accumulated in existing dumpsites of Andhra Pradesh. Two ULBs (Vijaywada and Tirupati Municipal Corporations) have completed the removal of legacy waste by following bio-mining process.

In Andhra Pradesh, 34 ULBs are connected to Cement Factories for Refuse Derived fuel (RDF) treatment. At present 49 centralised waste to compost/bio-cng projects are awarded in the state under DBOT (design-build-operate-transfer) basis. Three Construction and Demolition waste processing plants in Greater Visakhapatnam, Vijaywada and Tirupati Municipal Corporations are operational.

STATEWISE DETAILS OF DUMPSITES

S. No.	State	Total Number of existing dumpsites	Dumpsites reclaimed/ capped	Dumpsites Converted to sanitary landfill
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110	1	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27	Nil	Nil
4	Bihar	140	Nil	Nil
5	Chhattishgarh	8	0	0
6	Goa	9	Nil	Nil
7	Gujarat	170	0	0
8	Haryana	69	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	57	Nil	Nil
10	Jammu & Kashmir	62	Nil	Nil
11	Jharkhand	41	0	0
12	Karnataka	157	15	6
13	Kerala	38	6	Not Provided
14	Madhya Pradesh	328	50	Nil
15	Maharashtra	327	1	0
16	Manipur	21	Nil	Nil
17	Meghalaya	6	Nil	1
18	Mizoram	1	Nil	Nil
19	Nagaland	23	Nil	Nil
20	Odisha	112	Nil	Nil
21	Punjab	150	Nil	Nil
22	Rajasthan	172	1	1
23	Sikkim	2	Nil	1
24	Tamil Nadu	143	7	0
25	Telangana	123	1	1
26	Tripura	14	1	Nil
27	Uttarakhand	53	Nil	Nil
28	Uttar Pradesh	611		
29	West Bengal	100	1	Nil
30	Andaman and Nicobar	1	1	Not Provided
31	Chandigarh	1	1	1
32	DDDNH (2018-19)	2	Nil	Not Provided
33	Delhi	3	In process	Nil
34	Lakshadweep	0	Nil	Nil
35	Puducherry	3	1	Nil
	Total	3074	91	14