

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3230
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

Import of Hazardous Waste

3230. SHRI ESWARASAMY K:

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

- (a) whether some traders are freely engaged in importing restricted/banned hazardous wastes without valid permission;
- (b) if so, the list of importers of chemical wastes registered with the Government; and
- (c) the number of complaints received and action taken against such erring importers during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 (HOWM Rules, 2016) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure safe storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner without causing adverse effect to environment and human health.

The HOWM Rules, 2016 allow import of the hazardous wastes listed in Part A of the Schedule III for recycling, recovery, reuse and utilization including co-processing. Import of hazardous waste is not permitted for disposal in India. The import of hazardous waste listed in Part A of the Schedule III is allowed only to actual users with permission from the MoEF&CC and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade license, if applicable.

Any import of hazardous waste without permission of the MoEF&CC in accordance with HOWM Rules, 2016 is treated as illegal and under the Schedule VII of the HOWM Rules, 2016, Ports and Customs Authority are entrusted with the responsibility of taking action against importer for violations under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 or Customs Act, 1962.

As per the Annual inventory submitted by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs), about 5.47 lakhs MT of hazardous wastes was imported by entities located in 10 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Under the Schedule VII of the HOWM Rules, 2016, the SPCBs/PCCs are entrusted with the duties of grant & renewal of Authorization, Monitoring of compliance of various provisions of these rules and taking action against the violation of these rules amongst other duties.
