

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *110
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

***110. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is aware that a majority of India's e-waste is recycled in the informal sector;
- (b) the steps undertaken by Government to ensure the safety of e-waste workers;
- (c) the steps undertaken by Government to develop solutions for e-waste management; and
- (d) whether Government has invested in developing product design that is not hazardous?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*110 FOR 11.02.2021 REGARDING “E-WASTE MANAGEMENT”

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(a): The subject matter pertains to Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The management of E-Waste is regulated under the framework of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 and amendments there off. The Rules are effective from 01-10-2016. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are the regulators.

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. CPCB has time to time advised SPCBs/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), where twelve have reported that no activities were found during this period and five have taken action against the offenders. Details are given at **Annexure – I**.

(b): 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.

Under Awareness Programme on Environmental Hazards of E-Waste, a specific training manual (available at www.greene.gov.in) for informal sector has been developed, which includes safety of E-Waste workers. A number of trainings have been organized for E-Waste workers across the country with CPCB/SPCB.

(c): The management of E-Waste under the Rules is primarily based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Under EPR, the producers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) listed in the Schedule-I of the said rules have been given annual collection targets based on generation and sales, as the case may be, and have to manage their E-Waste in an environmentally sound manner through their authorized entities only, such as Recyclers/ Dismantlers/ Producers Responsibility Organizations (PROs) as the case may be. So far, 1678 Producers have obtained EPR Authorization. 44 PROs have obtained registration. 407 dismantlers/recyclers of E-Waste have authorization and their annual processing capacity is 110103.22 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 made operational for this purpose.

Under the Government sponsored research programme a cost effective and environmentally acceptable technologies have been developed for recovery of precious metals from printed circuit boards (PCBs) with a capacity of 1000 kg per day and 100 kg/ per batch and also technology for converting majority of E-Waste plastic products to virgin plastic products. These technologies have been transferred for commercialization.

Government has established a Centre of Excellence on E-Waste Management at Hyderabad, jointly with Government of Telangana and participation of industry to develop cost effective recycling solutions for PCBs, lithium ion batteries, magnets, Florescent Lamps for extraction of precious metals and transfer to industries/ start-ups.

(d): The designs of electric and electronic product contain various raw materials for specific functional requirements. Some of them are hazardous. With a view to reduce the use of hazardous substances in the manufacture of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and their components or consumables or parts or spares following limits have been prescribed in the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016.

- 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

A Government Testing and Certification facility for hazardous raw materials used for electronic products is operational at Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Hyderabad.

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 SPCB 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 & U.P. Pollution Control Board 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>

In addition to the above five SPCBs/PCCs, twelve other 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.
