GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 2879
FOR ANSWER ON: 18.7.2019

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON RECYCLING OF E-WASTE

2879 SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY to be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that e-wastes contain heavy metals and other toxic chemicals like mercury, lead, and sulphur that pose a real danger to our environment;
(b) whether Government is also aware that the county has produced 3.3 million tones of e-waste by the end of 2018;
(c) whether Government has taken any initiatives to recycle e-wastes; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Sir. Government is aware that E-Waste contains heavy metals and other toxic chemicals. Accordingly, under E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 six hazardous substances have been identified which include heavy metals like Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Cadmium (Cd), Hexavalent Chromium (Cr^{+6}) and Brominated Flame Retardants like Polybrominated biphenyls and Polybrominated diphenyl ethers. In the said rules permissible limits have been prescribed which is given below:

Lead (Pb)	-	0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
Mercury (Hg)	-	0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
Cadmium (Cd)	-	0.01% by weight in homogeneous material
Hexavalent Chromium (Cr+6)	-	0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
Polybrominated biphenyls	-	0.1% by weight in homogeneous material
Polybrominated diphenyl ethers	-	0.1% by weight in homogeneous material

(b): The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2005 estimated 1.47 lakh ton of e-waste and projected about 8.00 lakh MT of e-waste by 2012, in the country. As per the United Nations University report, "The Global E-Waste Monitor 2017", 20 lakh ton of e-waste generation was reported in the country in 2016.

(c) and (d): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016 on 23 March 2016 which was further amended in March 2018 for its effective implementation. The provisions of these rules include extended producer responsibility (EPR), setting up of producer responsibility organizations (PRO), and e-waste exchange to facilitate collection and recycling, assigning specific responsibility to bulk consumers or electronic products for safe disposal and other measures which include responsibility of producers of electrical and electronic products for collection and channelizing of e-waste. The Rules provide for simplified permission process for setting up of dismantling and recycling facilities through single authorization by CPCB. State Governments have been entrusted with the responsibility for earmarking industrial space for e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities, to undertake industrial skill development and establish measures for protection of health and safety of workers engaged in dismantling and recycling facilities of e-waste.

As per the available information at CPCB, there are 312 authorised dismantlers and recyclers in the country having an annual dismantling capacity of 782080.62 Metric Tonnes.

For the Financial Year 2017-18, the annual collection target of 244 authorised producers was 35,422.25 Metric Tonnes. Based on the annual reports, as received from SPCBs/PCCs, the quantity of e-waste recycled in the Financial Year 2017-18 was 69413.619 Metric Tonnes.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), being the nodal ministry for Electronics and IT, is involved in developing technology to recycle e-waste in an environment friendly manner. The e-waste has various components like, Printed Circuit Board (PCB), plastic, metal etc. The technology for recovery of precious metals from PCB and conversion of e-waste plastics to value added products has been successfully developed and up-scaled.

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