GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2208
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

Waste Management

2208. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

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

(a)   whether there are any new initiative to improve waste management and promote recycling in urban and rural areas;
(b)   if so, the details thereof, including the types of waste targeted and the methods being used;
(c)   the details of involvement of local communities and the private sector in waste management efforts; and
(d)   the expected impact of these initiatives on environmental health and sustainability?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced regulations for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) across five waste streams viz. plastic packaging, E-waste, battery waste, waste tyre and used oil. These regulations provide statutory framework for extended producer responsibility across the country including urban and rural areas and have become a tool for operationalization of "Waste to Wealth" and Circular Economy. Through this regulation, focus has shifted from collection and disposal of waste to recycling of waste and mandatory targets have been prescribed for recycling of waste. The number of items covered under EPR for E-waste has been increased from 21 to 106. The EPR certificates generated by registered recyclers for E-waste are in terms of the identified metals. The EPR on battery waste is based upon recycling of identified materials. The EPR regulations also focus on reuse and use of recycled content depending on the type of waste stream, and are expected to promote development of new business models, generation of employment opportunities and strengthening of waste management sector including growth of recycling industry thus leading to environmental protection and resource conservation.

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