

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4422

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002

EXPORT OF ELECTRONIC WASTE BY U.S.

DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;KANTI SINGH;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the recent report of the Watchdog groups regarding exports of toxic electronics waste by the U.S. Brothers collected at the recycling centres of Asian countries including India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the 17th Session of UN Commission of Human Rights as well as the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India has banned dumping of such wastes;
- (d) if so, the rationale behind import of such wastes to India; and
- (e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check such import to India?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. There have been press reports on the export of electronics scrap from USA and other countries to India. The report `Exporting Harm: The High-Tech Trashing of Asia` prepared by The Basel Action Network (BAN) and Silicon Valley Toxic Coalition (SVTC) with support from Toxics Link India, Greenpeace China and SCOPE (Pakistan) provides details interalia on the export of electronics waste to India. As per this report, electronics waste trade is stated to be a thriving business in the areas of Mandoli, Sadar Bazar, Kanti Nagar Extension, Old Seelampur and Turkmangate of Delhi.

(c), (d) & (e): Yes Sir. The Supreme Court vide their order dated 5.5.1997 have directed that no import of hazardous wastes which are already banned under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal would be permitted by any authority or any person. Electronics waste is included under List-A and List-B of Schedule-3 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000. The import of this waste therefore requires specific permission of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. No such permission has been given to any authority or person by the Ministry till date.