

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2006
COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .;Singh Chaudhary Lal

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Committee has been constituted to look into various aspects of solid waste management in Class-I cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has presented its report;
- (d) if so, the salient features of the report;
- (e) whether the Committee has recommended setting up of a National Technology Mission for improving solid waste management practices in the country; and
- (f) if so, the follow-up action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a)to(f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.189 FOR 3.3.2006 REGARDING COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

(a): Yes, Sir. A Committee was constituted by the Hon`ble Supreme court of India in January, 1998 to look into all the aspects of Solid Waste Management in Class-I cities of the country.

(b)&(c): A copy of the order of the Hon`ble Supreme Court dated 16.1.1998 containing the directions on the constitution of Committee is given in Annexure-A. The Committee submitted its report in March, 1999.

(d): The Committee studied the following aspects of Solid Waste Management(SWM) in the country :

(i) Waste generation

(ii) Composition of waste

(iii) Technology adopted for storage, collection, transportation and disposal of waste.

(iv) Primary collection, waste storage depots, street sweeping, transportation of waste, processing & disposal of waste, Institutional arrangement and community involvement.

Recommendations of the Committee for modernization of solid waste management practices in Class-I cities are at Annexure-B.

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f): Pursuant to the directions issued by the Hon`ble Supreme Court, in place of a Mission the Government constituted a Technology Advisory Group (TAG) in August, 1999.

ANNEXURE-A

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (C) NUMBER 888 OF 1996

Almitra H. Patel & Anr. ...Petitioners
Vs. U.O.I. & Ors. ...Respondents
ORDER

We have heard learned Additional Solicitor General and Shri Vallapalli, learned Senior counsel. We consider it appropriate at this stage to constitute a Committee and to specify the specific aspects which the Committee is required to examine. We direct accordingly.

The Committee for class-I Cities (having population over one lac) shall consist of the following:-

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. Asim Burman
(Commissioner, Calcutta
Municipal Corpn.) | Chairman |
| 2. Mr. S. R. Rao
(Secretary, SSI,
Govt. of Gujarat &
ex-Commr., Surat) | Member |
| 3. Mr. S. K. Chawla,
Chief Engineer, CPWD | Member |
| 4. Mr. P.U.Asnani
(Urban Env.Infrastructure
Rep.for India, USAID and
Consultant,Ahmedabad Mun. Corpn.) | Member |
| 5. Dr. Saroj
(Jt. Director, Ministry of
of Environment & Forests) | Member |
| 6. Mr .Rajat Bhargava
(Commissioner, Vijaywada
Mun.Corpn.) | Member |
| 7. Mr. Yogendra Tripathi
(Dy. Secy. Urban Dev.
MOUA&E) | Member
Secretary |
| 8. Mrs. Almitra Patel
(Convener, INTACH Waste
Network) | Member |

The terms of Reference for the Committee shall be as under:

To look into all aspects of urban solid waste management, particularly:

1. Examine the existing practices and to suggest hygienic processing and waste disposal practices and proven technologies on the basis of economic feasibility and safety which the Corporation/Government may directly or indirectly adopt or sponsor.
2. Examine and suggest ways to improve conditions in the formal, and informal sector for promoting eco-friendly sorting, collection, transportation, disposal, recycling and reuse.
3. To review Municipal bye-laws and the powers of local bodies and regional planning authorities and suggest necessary modifications to ensure effective budgeting, financing, administration, monitoring and compliance.
4. Examine and formulate standards and regulations for management of urban solid waste, and set time frames within which the authorities shall be bound to implement the same.

The Committee is requested to give its report as early as possible preferably not later than 30th June, 1998. The Committee is also requested to give such interim reports as it may find convenient so to do.

The Secretarial assistance at Delhi will be provided for the Ministry of Urban Development which will also make all other

arrangements required by the Committee for its proper functioning while arrangements

within the States/Union Territories would be made by the concerned State/UT. The expenses incurred for the purpose to the same extent would be borne at this stage by the Ministry of Urban Development and the concerned State Governments/UST. The final responsibility for meeting these expenses would be decided later on.

The Local authorities and concerned State Governments/Union Territories shall extend all cooperation and assistance to the Committee for its proper functioning.

List the matter on 20th July, 1998/

Sd/- CJI

Sd/- J. (B.N.KIRPAL)

Sd/- J. (V.N.KHARE) .

NEW DELHI JANUARY 16, 1998

ANNEXURE-B

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODERNISATION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN CLASS I CITIES

BAN ON THROWING OF WASTES ON THE STREETS

No waste shall be thrown on the streets, footpaths, open spaces, open drains or water bodies.

STORAGE OF WASTE AT SOURCE

Waste shall be stored at source of generation in 2 bins/bags, one for food/bio-degradable wastes and another for recyclable waste. Domestic hazardous waste, as and when produced, shall be kept separately from the above two streams.

Multi storeyed buildings, commercial complexes and group housing shall additionally provide community bins for storage of waste generated by their members. Community bins shall also be provided in slums by the local body for the community storage of waste by slum dwellers.

DOORSTEP COLLECTION OF WASTE

Both the streams of waste, organic/ biodegradable waste as well as recyclable waste, shall be collected from the doorstep. Containerised handcarts or containerised tricycles or small- motorised vehicles shall be used for daily collection of food/ biodegradable waste from the doorstep through public participation using a bell, whistle or horn as a means of announcing the arrival of the collection staff.

For collection of recyclable waste from the doorstep NGOs may be encouraged to organize the rag pickers. They may allot them the work of collection of recyclable material from the doorsteps instead of picking it up from the streets, bins or dump-yard, thereby upgrading their status. This waste can be collected once or twice a week according to the convenience of the households, shops or establishments.

Hazardous toxic waste material which is occasionally generated shall however be disposed of by the citizens in special bins to be provided in the city at suitable locations by the urban local bodies.

SWEEPING OF STREETS ON ALL DAYS OF THE YEAR

Sweeping of streets and public places having habitation or commercial activities on one or both sides shall be done on all days of the year irrespective of Sundays and public holidays. Arrangements for rotating weekly rest-days are to be made by the local bodies.

WORK NORMS FOR SWEEPING OF STREETS

Work norms ranging from 250 to 750 running meters of road length have been recommended, depending on the density of the area and local conditions. Giving a demarcated 'pin point' area for street sweeping and waste collection is also recommended for optimum utilisation of manpower.

PROVISION OF LITTER BINS AT PUBLIC PLACES

Provision of litter bins at railway stations, bus stations, market places, parks, gardens and important commercial streets may be made, to prevent littering of streets.

ABOLITION OF OPEN WASTE STORAGE SITES AND OTHER UN-HYGIENIC STREET BINS

The pathetic condition of street bins must be corrected by the provision of neat mobile closed body containers into which waste can be directly transferred from the containerised hand carts or tricycles and all open waste-storage sites as well as cement concrete or masonry bins must be abolished in a phased manner.

TRANSPORTATION OF WASTE TO SYNCHRONIZE WITH WASTE STORAGE FACILITY - DISPENSE WITH MANUAL LOADING OF WASTE

For the transportation of waste, a system which synchronizes with both primary collection and bulk waste storage facilities may be introduced. Manual loading and multiple handling of waste may be dispensed with and instead, hydraulic vehicles for lifting the containers may be used in larger cities and tractor trolleys or a tractor container combination may be used in smaller cities.

Transportation of waste shall be done on a regular basis before the temporary waste-storage containers start over-flowing. For economy in expenditure, the vehicle fleet should be used in at least two shifts. Workshop facilities may be optimised to keep at least 80% of the vehicle fleet on road. Transfer stations may be set up in cities where the distance to waste-disposal sites is more than 10 kms.

PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE:

Conversion of Organic Waste/Bio-degradable Waste into Bio-organic Fertiliser (Compost)

With the availability of land for processing and disposal of waste becoming scarce and the food and bio-degradable component useful to agriculture going waste, measures for conservation of land and organic waste resource shall be taken and organics shall be returned to the soil. To meet these objectives, all food waste and bio degradable waste shall be composted, recyclable waste shall be passed on to the recycling industry and only rejects shall be land-filled in a

scientific manner. Decentralised composting with public and NGOs/CBO participation, may be encouraged wherever possible, and centralised composting of the rest of the waste may be done. Microbial or vermi composting processes may be adopted. A variety of composting options has been given in the report and their processes are explained.

CAUTION AGAINST USING UNPROVEN TECHNOLOGIES

Local bodies are cautioned not to adopt expensive technologies of power generation, fuel pelletisation, incineration etc. until they are proven under Indian conditions and the Government of India or expert agencies nominated by the Government of India advises cities that such technology can be adopted.

LAND TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ON PRIORITY FOR PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE

Availability of land for setting up processing plants and for disposal of waste is a major problem faced by urban local bodies. Government wasteland must therefore be given on top priority for this purpose free or at nominal cost, and if such land is not available or not found suitable, private land should be acquired or purchased through negotiated settlement. A Committee at the district level should identify suitable land and State Governments should form Empowered Committees to give speedy final clearance and prompt possession of suitable land to the ULB.

CRITERIA FOR SITE SELECTION, SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDFILL OPERATIONS

Criteria for site selection, development of land fill sites and scientific landfill operations may be adopted. Remediation of old abandoned landfill sites should also be done as suggested in the report. Bio-medical waste, industrial waste and slaughter-house waste may be managed as per the relevant Rules and guidelines of the Government of India and/or Central Pollution Control Board.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Institutional strengthening is the key to success of the SWM system. Professionalism in administration, decentralisation of administration, delegation of financial and administrative powers, induction of environmental/public health engineers in the solid waste management services and fixation of work norms and proper supervisory levels are recommended. Human resource development through training at various levels needs to be taken up. Municipal Commissioners and Chief Executives should not be transferred frequently and should have a tenure of at least 3 years to perform effectively. Inter-city meets for sharing of experience are recommended.

Adequate safe-guards for the supervisory staff against abuse of the Schedule Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1984 may be provided through suitable amendments in the law to enable the Supervisory staff to perform their duties fearlessly.

NGO/PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN SWM SERVICES

There is a need to improve accountability and the level of services through NGO/Private sector participation in SWM services to improve overall performance without harming the interests of the existing staff. Suitable amendments in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 may be done by the Govt. of India to permit private sector participation in this service.

ENFORCEMENT

A system of levy of administrative charges or special cleaning charges from those who litter the streets or cause nuisance on the streets may be introduced and powers to punish offenders may be given to the local bodies through suitable additions to the Municipal acts & rules.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

MIS is the key to monitoring the performance of manpower and machinery and to help in planning for the future. Detailed management information systems suggested in the report may be introduced.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The poor financial health of ULBs is major constraint in improving SWM systems. The financial condition of local bodies may first be improved by setting the house in order and a series of measures towards financial discipline, avoidance of wasteful expenditure, prioritising the expenditure on essential services, as recommended in the report may be taken. Taxes, user charges and fees should be raised and linked to the cost-of-living index. Area-based property- tax reforms may be taken up to improve the finances of the ULBs.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ULBs BY STATES AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS

Financial support to ULBs from the State Government and the Central Government in terms of the 74th Amendment to the Constitution may be given expeditiously and funds may also be allocated to ULBs for a period of three years as per the formula given in the report. In the meantime, transfer of unspent grants by the 10th Finance Commission to the ULBs may be considered for modernising their SWM practices. Fiscal autonomy to local bodies, tax free status for municipal bonds, incentives to recycling and composting industries may be considered by the Central and State Governments and Union Territories.

HEALTH ASPECTS

Improper SWM practices give rise to problems of health and sanitation. Twenty-two types of diseases are associated with improper SWM practices. Proper management of processing and disposal sites, special attention to cleaning of slums, provision of low cost sanitation facilities to prevent open defecation, prevention of cattle nuisance, proper training to the workforce and use of protective clothing are some of the measures the local body should take immediately to protect the health of the citizens and the work force.

LEGAL ASPECTS

Citizens` active participation may be ensured through massive public awareness campaigns. Simultaneously, adequate provisions may be made in local State laws governing the local bodies to ensure public participation and action against defaulters. Legislative provisions to be made by each State have been suggested in the report.

PUBLIC AWARENESS STRATEGY

Public awareness campaign using information, education and communication (I-E-C) techniques may be used. Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling (R-R-R) may be advocated to reduce the burden on the local body and citizens may be motivated to store waste at source in a two-bin system, co-operate with the doorstep primary collection system and keep the city litter-free. Hygienic Solid Waste Management needs to find a place in the National Agenda.

TECHNOLOGY MISSION FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Given the vastness of the country and the present condition of urban local bodies, implementation of these recommendations requires very effective follow-up, monitoring and technical support. A Technology Mission for SWM may therefore be urgently constituted by the Government of India under the Ministry of Urban Development for a period of 5 years, having a mandate to monitor the performance of various local bodies, to guide the local bodies about various technologies for processing and disposal of waste, to give technical assistance as well as financial assistance by channelising funds from various Government sources as well as financial institutions to develop material for awareness programmes, identify training needs, bench-mark performance indicators and give continued and focussed attention to the reform of SWM practice nation-wide.

TIME FRAME

A time frame is necessary to implement the recommendations which have been prescribed ranging from 3 months to 3 years as per the details given in the report.