GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1753
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QUANTUM OF ELECTRONIC WASTE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of electronic waste generated in the country every year including the current year;

(b) the arrangements made for disposal of increasing e-waste in the country

(c) whether technology for total destruction of the harmful elements like mercury, lead and cadmium found in e-waste is available in the country;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to ensure complete disposal of such wastes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Electronic waste comprises goods ranging from personal computers to various household appliances such as TV, refrigerator, cell phones etc. The process of inventorization of e-waste in the country is underway. According to a study commissioned by Central Pollution Control Board, around 1,46,000 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is generated annually.

(b) To (e) Safe management of e-waste include re-use, recycling, resource recovery and final disposal in secured landfills.

An e-waste recycling pilot plant of 10 MT/day capacities near Bangalore, Karnataka and an e-waste management and recycling unit at Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra have been set up. These have facilities for metal recovery. One major IT company has identified disposal agencies and set up complete process for disposal of e-waste for its customers.

According to the available information, mercury containing waste can be managed by installing mercury recovering system (vacuum distillation) and lead can be recovered by mechanical separation in solders.

With a view to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and motivate the electronics industry to minimize the generation of waste, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has initiated measures to generate awareness in the industry and provide adequate information. A comprehensive technical guide "Environmental Management for Information Technology Industry in India" has also been released by the DIT.