

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5904

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010

BIO-MEDICAL WASTE

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the report of the World Health Organisation (WHO) the Bio- Medical Waste is more toxic than the Radio Active materials for human life;
- (b) if so, whether in spite of the above report, there is a lack of proper management in the Hospitals of the country;
- (c) if so, the details of the said hospitals;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to have a hospital Waste Management Policy and issue warnings to the hospitals which fail to manage the disposal of the said waste; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e): Radioactive health-care waste usually contains radionuclide with short Half- lives, which lose their activity relatively quickly. This usually will cause no immediate effects unless an individual receives a very high dose. Certain therapeutic procedures, however, require the use of radio-nuclides with longer half-lives. The type and form of radioactive material used in health-care establishments usually results in low-level radioactive waste and the quantity of Radioactive waste is very small as compared to other Bio-medical wastes. Hence, Bio-Medical Waste is more toxic than the Radio Active materials for human life to a large extent.

Health being a state subject, it is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take all necessary actions for proper management and disposal of Bio-Medical waste through the State Pollution Control Boards in pursuance of Bio-medical waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The Pollution Control Boards/Committees are empowered to ensure the compliance of provisions of these Rules. This information regarding States is not maintained centrally. However, in so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, they are managing their bio-medical wastes in accordance with Bio-medical waste rules 1998 and Central Pollution Control Board guidelines.

National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management based on Bio-medical waste (Management & Handling) Rules were developed by this Ministry and circulated to all states in 2002.