

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2549
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
VIOLATION OF BIO MEDICAL WASTE RULES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several private health care establishments in Delhi and in other major cities across the country are flouting the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to constitute a Central Committee to monitor the implementation of Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure the strict implementation of the Rules?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): As per the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 (BMW Rules), as amended, every health care establishment, except those providing treatment/service to less than 1000 (one thousand) patients per month, are required to have an authorization from the State Pollution Control Board/ Pollution Control Committee. These rules prescribe detailed provisions for treatment and disposal of bio-medical waste.

As per information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), there are a total of 97,662 Health Care Facilities (HCFs), which include both the Government and private health care establishments, in the country. 47,750 HCFs have obtained authorization from the concerned SPCBs/PCCs, for handling bio-medical waste in accordance with the rules.

There is no proposal to constitute a Central Committee to monitor the implementation of BMW Rules. However, the following steps have been taken for ensuring strict implementation:

- (i) An Action Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the CPCB and SPCBs/PCCs to improve implementation of the BMW Rules and take stringent action against the defaulting health care establishments.
- (ii) Since lack of awareness and absence of adequate common treatment and disposal facilities are the main constraints in strict implementation of the BMW Rules, the Ministry is providing financial assistance to government and non government agencies to conduct awareness and training programs for doctors, nurses and other hospital staff.
- (iii) The Ministry has also started a scheme for providing financial assistance for setting up of Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (CBMWTDFs).
- (iv) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has prepared "Guidelines on Design & Construction of Bio-Medical Waste Incinerators" and also the "Guidelines for Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment & Disposal Facilities" and circulated these to all SPCBs/PCCs to ensure compliance with the stipulated standards.
- (v) CPCB undertakes random inspections of the CBMWTDFs, as well as HCFs.