

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2984
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
BIO-MEDICAL WASTE
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

(a) whether any notice in regard to the spreading of air pollution through the existing disposal system of bio-medical waste by the incinerators has been served on the Union Government and the Central Pollution Control Board on April 15, 2005 by the Supreme Court of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps aimed at checking disposal of bio-medical waste through the existing system have been taken by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): The Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued notice on April 15, 2005 to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in Writ Petition (Civil) No.160 of 2005, in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and others. It was alleged by the Petitioner that disposal of bio-medical waste by incineration is causing serious environmental problems. It was prayed that the Union of India and the CPCB may be directed to stop giving permissions for installation of incinerators and also to stop operation of the existing incinerators for treatment of Bio-Medical Waste. The Petitioner also prayed for recognition and encouragement of new technologies for disposal of the bio-medical and other wastes, particularly the "non-burn" technologies.

The above-mentioned Writ Petition has been disposed of on 22-10-2008. The Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the incinerators for disposal of Bio-Medical Waste treatment are installed on the basis of procedure prescribed under the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 and that the Petitioner had not produced any scientific material or research results to show that the existing incinerators were causing serious environmental pollution as alleged in the petition.

(c) & (d): The Govt. of India had notified the Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 (BMW Rules), under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for safe disposal of bio-medical wastes whereby standards for emissions and operational standards for incinerators have been laid down. The State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee of Union Territory (SPCB/PCC) is the Prescribed Authority for implementing various provisions of Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has prepared & circulated to all State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) the guidelines on "Design & Construction of Bio-medical Waste Incinerators" in order to help them comply with the standards stipulated in the BMW Rules. A check list for verification of compliance by CBMWTDFs was also prepared and circulated to all SPCBs/PCCs for implementation. The CPCB carries out random stack emission monitoring and directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are issued for violation of provisions of BMW Rules.