

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4782

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010

STUDY ON E-WASTE

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

- (a) the existing policy of the Government regarding import of electronic and plastic waste from abroad;
- (b) The quantum of import of such materials during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has recently conducted a study on the dangers posted by e-waste in the country and if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the responsibility for disposal of e-waste lies with the manufactures in Europe and if so, the details thereof ; and
- (e) the steps taken by Union Government to enforce similar regulation in the country?

Answer

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

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes. As per these Rules, import of hazardous wastes, including e-waste and plastic waste, for disposal is not permitted. Import of such wastes is permitted only for reuse or recycling or reprocessing with the permission of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) From April 2009 to July 2010, the Ministry has conveyed no objection for import of 8,000 MT of e-waste and about 19,325.3 MT of plastic waste.

(c) E-wastes are known to contain certain toxic constituents in their components, which if not handled properly, can pose risks to human health and the environment. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has published Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste in 2008. These Guidelines provide the approach and methodology required to be followed for environmentally sound management of e-waste.

(d) and (e) The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) of the European Community provides for producers to set up collection systems for electronic waste generated from products manufactured by them. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has published the draft notification of e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2010, which is based on the concept of Extended Producers Responsibility i.e. the producers will have the responsibility for setting up collection systems for channelizing e-waste generated from their products to registered recyclers.