

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5279
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
BIO MEDICAL WASTE
Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh

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

- (a) whether tons of bio-medical waste released by hospitals/health units in the country are creating fertile ground for disease like hepatitis, cancer and AIDS;
- (b) if so, the steps taken, so far by the Government for the bio-medical waste management in the country;
- (c) whether health units instead of disposing off the bio-medical waste recycle it to earn money; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government against these units?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): The untreated Bio-medical waste (BMW) generated from the hospitals/ health units in the country may pose threat of infectious diseases and environmental pollution.

Under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has notified Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules in 1998, as amended from time to time, to provide a regulatory framework for segregation, transportation, storage, treatment and disposal of the bio-medical waste generated from the Health Care Facilities (HCFs) in the country so as to avoid adverse impact on human health and environment. The State Pollution Control Boards and the Pollution Control Committees in the Union Territories are the prescribed authorities for implementation of the Rules.

National Guidelines on Hospital waste Management based on Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules have been developed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and circulated to all States/Union Territories in the year 2002 for implementation.

In addition, a National Policy document and Operational Guidelines for Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Sub-centres have also been developed by Ministry of Health and Family welfare in 2007, for implementation of Infection Management and Environment Plan (IMEP) under Reproductive and Child Health Programme phase-II, to address the issues relating to infection control and waste management.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned regular training programmes are conducted in Bio-medical waste management for all categories of Health workers. Information, Education and Communication activities are undertaken regularly to bring awareness about safe and effective bio-medical waste management amongst the hospital staff.

(c) and (d): In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi namely Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and Associated hospitals are concerned, no incidence of disposal of waste without following BMW rules has been reported.