GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2933
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
CHECK ON HAZARDOUS WASTE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of hazardous wastes being generated annually in the country;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study to analyse the consequences of these wastes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to tackle this problem of increasing environmental pollution in the country?

Answer

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

(a) As per information of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), about 6.2 lakh MT hazardous waste is generated every year.

(b) and (c) 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. Out of the 6.2 lakh MT of hazardous waste generated per year about 2.7 lakh MT is landfillable, about 0.41 lakh MT is incinerable and about 3.08 lakh MT is recyclable. As per these rules, the State Governments have the responsibility for identifying sites for setting-up Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) for disposal of hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner. The non-recyclable hazardous waste is being disposed of scientifically in the TSDFs. This Ministry provides financial assistance on a cost sharing basis for setting-up of TSDFs. There are 27 TSDFs under operation in the country and 8 TSDFs are under construction. The functioning of TSDFs is monitored by State Pollution Control Boards concerned. Guidelines have been published by the Central Pollution Control Board on various aspects of hazardous waste management for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid Rules. The respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees are monitoring the units generating hazardous wastes.