

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1149

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

CHECK ON IMPORT OF E-WASTE

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

- (a) whether the country imports e-waste including toxic e-waste from other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of such imports commodity/ item-wise imported during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether this e-waste causes hazardous effects on human health;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes including e-waste. Import and export of e-waste are regulated as per these rules. Import of such wastes for disposal is not permitted. Import is permitted only for recycling or recovery or reuse with the permission of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and/or Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

As per these Rules, permission for import and export of e-waste can be considered only by those recycling units, which have environmentally sound recycling facilities and are registered with State Pollution Control Board/ Pollution Control Committee concerned. The Ministry has in the past given permission for export of e-waste by these registered recycling units and import to one such unit for recycling.

(e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken a number of steps to ensure environmentally sound management of e-waste in the country. These include:

(i) For effective implementation of provisions related to import and export, a co-ordination committee including representatives from the Ministry of Finance (Department. of Revenue), the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (DGFT), the Ministry of Shipping (Department. of Ports), the Central Pollution Control Board and select State Pollution Control Boards has been constituted. This committee has been working to sensitize the Customs authorities regarding enforcement of these Rules in order to check illegal import of E-waste into the country.

(ii) Separate E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 have been notified on 12th May, 2011. These Rules will come in to effect from 1st May 2012.

(iii) E-waste recycling can be undertaken only in facilities authorized and registered with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees. Waste generated is required to be sent or sold to a registered or authorized recycler or re-processor having environmentally sound facilities.

(iv) The Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste, published by Central Pollution Control Board, provide approach and methodology for environmentally sound management of e-waste.

(v) The Ministry is implementing a Scheme to provide financial assistance for setting up of treatment, disposal and storage facility for hazardous and integrated recycling facilities for E-waste on public private partnership mode.