

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011
BIO-MEDICAL WASTE
Singh Shri Bhola

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

- (a) whether the bio-medical waste generated from various hospitals in Delhi and all over the country poses a danger of spread of various diseases;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has chalked out any plan for disposal of bio-medical waste from various hospitals; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated to the States/UTs for disposal of bio-medical wastes and the other measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a):Yes, if not handled with care as provided in Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998.

(b): The Government of India has notified Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules in 1998, as amended in the years 2000 &2003, 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. Treatment and disposal options for different waste categories have been prescribed under the Rules. Operation and emission standards have also been prescribed for bio-medical waste treatment equipments. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has prescribed guidelines for Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities as well as design and construction of Incinerators.

National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management based on Bio-medical waste (Management & Handling) Rules were developed by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare and distributed to all States/Union Territories in 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 the 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.

Hospitals and health centres are required to follow the above mentioned rules and guidelines for waste management. As per the rules, no untreated Biomedical waste shall be kept stored beyond a period of 48 hours. Hospitals can also dispose off their Biomedical waste through Common Biomedical waste Treatment facilities. As per the information provided by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) there are 182 Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTF) in various towns and cities which are facilitating Biomedical waste treatment treatment to healthcare facilities. The CBWTFs have been installed with the treatment facilities like incinerator, autoclave, microwave, shredders etc.

In so far as the three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi namely Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and its Associated Hospitals are concerned, they are disposing off their biomedical waste as per the prescribed BMW rules.

(c):Health being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to provide adequate funds and take all steps for proper management of bio-medical waste.

However, approximately Rs. 24.3 crore was provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to 21 States/Union Territories from 2000-2001 to 2006-2007 for the following purposes:

1. Purchase of equipments such as; Incinerator, Microwave, Autoclave and Shredder.
2. Other equipments including colour coded bags & puncture proof containers, protective gears, etc.
3. Civil and electrical works to house and operate the waste treatment facilities.
4. Training.
5. I.E.C. activities.

