

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1573
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
EFFECT OF E-WASTE ON HUMAN LIFE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the increasing quantum of e-waste is causing immense damage to the environment and human life in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the hazardous effect of e-waste on human life in the country; and
- (d) the extent to which success has been achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): 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 Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 for proper management and handling of e-waste. These Rules have come into force from 1st May 2012. These Rules prescribe threshold limits for six hazardous substances used in manufacture of electrical and electronics components. Producers are expected to achieve the reduction in use of the hazardous substances to the prescribed limit within a period of two years from the date of commencement of these rules.

The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has been enshrined in these rules. The producers of electrical and electronic equipments covered under the Rules are required to collect e-waste generated from the end of life of their products by setting up collection centers or take back systems either individually or collectively.

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

After the rules have become effective from 1st May 2012, 77 e-waste dismantling/recycling facilities have been granted registration by different SPCBs/PCCs.