

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3808

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012

CHECK ON IMPORT OF E WASTE

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to ban import of used computers and other electronic waste (e-wast
- (e) from other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of e-waste generated within the country and the amount being re-cycled every year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to regulate the recycling and disposal of hazardous waste in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) 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 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 MoEF.

(c) Based on a survey carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the year 2005, approximately 1.47 lakh MT per annum of e-waste was generated in the country. Ten states generate 70% of the total e-waste generated in the country. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab are among top ten states generating e-waste. There are 23 e-waste recycling units having the recycling capacity of 90,000 MTA.

(d) The Ministry has taken a number of steps to regulate the recycling and disposal of hazardous waste in the country. These include:

(i) MoEF has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes. 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. 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.

(ii) Separate E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 have been notified. 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 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. 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.