

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013
BIO MEDICAL WASTE
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether most of the Government hospitals in the country, especially in the National Capital are casually dumping untreated hazardous bio-medical waste despite having expensive incinerators installed at the hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details of hospitals where incinerators are not functioning along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism of to ensure proper implementation of Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against the erring hospitals for dumping of untreated medical waste in violation of the said rules and also for ensuring their proper implementation?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) As per the annual report submitted by SPCBs/PCCs/Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) for the year 2010, some of the Health Care Facilities (HCFs)/Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs) are reported to be violating the provisions of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

As far as three central government hospitals namely Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC under the Directorate General of Health Services are concerned, they are disposing Bio- medical waste as per the BMW rules.

(c) to (e) Health being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to take necessary steps to monitor the disposal of biomedical wastes through the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the Union Territories, as per the provisions made under the Bio-medical waste (Management & Handling) Rules in 1998, as amended in the years 2000 & 2003. The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are the prescribed authorities to grant authorization for the BMW Management. They are empowered to ensure the compliance of provisions of these Rules.

As per the Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998, every occupier of an institution generating BMW has to ensure that such waste is handled without any adverse effect to human health and environment. The Bio-Medical Waste is required to be segregated according to the colour code for containers/bags prescribed in Schedule-II of the BMW Rules. Further, it is the responsibility of the occupier to treat and dispose of bio-medical waste in accordance with treatment and disposal options mentioned in Schedule-I of the aforesaid Rules.

The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the Union Territories are the designated Prescribed Authorities for ensuring implementation of the Bio- medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Government of India have delegated necessary powers vested in it under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all the SPCBs and PCCs in UTs, to issue directions to any industry or any other authority for violation of standards and Rules, inter-alia, relating to Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998. The SPCBs/PCCs are required to closely monitor the implementation of the Rules by the Health Care Establishments (HCEs) and take necessary legal actions against the establishments which violate these Rules.

An inter-ministerial Committee of Senior Officers at the Central level has been constituted comprising representatives from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Urban Development and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to review the implementation of Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules in the country.