

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:47

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013

VIOLATION OF RULES BY HEALTH CARE INSTITUTES

Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether several Public/Private Health Care Institutes are violating the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 by not following prescribed colour coding for containers meant for collecting wastes;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received complaints in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to constitute a Committee for monitoring the implementation of the Bio-medical Waste Rules, 1998 at the Central level and if so, the status of the proposal; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure proper compliance of rules all over the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry has notified the Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998. As per these rules 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 under these 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 these rules.

As per the Annual Report for the year 2011 on implementation of Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1998, some of the Health Care Facilities (HCFs) are reported to be violating the provisions of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Show-cause notices/directions have been issued to 3585 defaulting HCFs.

(d): 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.

(e): The following steps have been inter-alia taken by the Government to improve compliance of the BMW Rules:

i) All the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and the Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) of Union Territories have been asked to ensure effective implementation of the BMW Rules and to take stringent action against the health care facilities for violation of provisions, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

ii) This Ministry provides financial assistance on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis for setting up of common treatment and disposal facilities in States/UTs for environmentally sound disposal of bio-medical wastes.

iii) Financial assistance is provided to SPCBs/PCCs and governmental/non-governmental organizations for creating awareness and capacity building programmes on bio-medical waste management. CPCB has also been requested to advise SPCBs/PCCs to create public awareness through media campaign for better compliance.

iv) CPCB has prepared guidelines for 'Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs)' and 'Design and Construction of Bio-Medical Waste Incinerators' for ensuring their compliance.

v) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been requested to advise the State Health Secretaries to take necessary measures to improve compliance of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 by all the Health Care Establishments under their respective jurisdictions.