

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4178

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

DUMPING OF WASTAGE

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

- (a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that some foreign companies have dumped their hazardous waste in the coastal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has instructed the respective State to ensure that coastal areas are not misused by these companies; and
- (d) the action taken by the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): According to the Department of Customs, no instance of foreign countries dumping their hazardous wastes in the coastal areas has been reported.

However, two cases of import of waste paper mixed with non biodegradable municipal solid wastes and a third case of e-waste from Kuwait were detected by the Customs Authorities during the last three years. All the consignments have been re-exported, as per provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movements) Rules, 2008.

Import of wastes is not allowed for dumping / disposal purposes in India as per the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movements) Rules, 2008. However, import of recyclable wastes like plastics, paper wastes and metal scrap conforming to the specifications mentioned in the Rules is allowed for recycling by the actual users who have the necessary approval from the concerned authorities.

Further, the ministry has constituted a co-ordination committee including representatives from the Department of Revenue, DGFT, Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards and Experts to oversee the implementation of the provisions laid down in the Rules, specially related to import and export of hazardous wastes. The Rules require all consignments to be accompanied by a pre shipment inspection certificate/test report from an accredited laboratory and a movement document. The Customs authorities are required to take random samples for the consignments to prevent misdeclaration.