

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4076
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2019

Disposal of Toxic Waste

4076. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether all toxic waste has not been disposed off from the site of Bhopal Gas leak yet and if so, the details of toxic waste yet to be disposed;
- (b) Whether toxic waste at the site is leading to contamination of soil and groundwater in the vicinity and if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that toxic waste is disposed off at the earliest;
- (c) Whether trial incineration of 10MT had taken place in 2015;
- (d) If so, whether the exercise could be successfully carried out and if so, the details thereof along with the time taken to dispose off 10MT safely in 2015;
- (e) The time by which the rest of the toxic waste is likely to be disposed off; and
- (f) Whether any action has been taken against authorities responsible for disposing off the waste for the delay caused and the adverse effect it has had on the health of people and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Approximately 347 tonne of hazardous waste was stored in the premises of the erstwhile Union Carbide India Ltd. (UCIL), Bhopal. Out of which, 10 tonne waste has been incinerated in trial run. Remaining 337 tonne waste was collected and stored under secured shed within the premises of the erstwhile Union Carbide India Ltd (UCIL), Bhopal. The Government has decided to undertake remedial measures including the safe disposal of identified waste of the erstwhile Union Carbide India Ltd. (UCIL), Bhopal. As decided by the Union Cabinet on 24.06.2010, disposal of the remaining 337 tonne waste and remediation of the site will be undertaken by the Government of Madhya Pradesh (MP). Further, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has assisted the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the preparation of Request for Proposal (RFP) documents for inviting competitive bids for disposal of the remaining waste from hazardous waste operators.

(c) to (f) Trial incineration of 10 tonne of UCIL waste was carried out at common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF), Pithampur (Indore) from 13.08.2015 to 18.08.2015 under the supervision of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, State Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board, and the Ministry. During the trial run it was reported that all monitored parameters of the incinerated waste complied with the prescribed parameters of

common hazardous waste incinerator as prescribed vide notification no GSR 481 (E), dated 26.06.2008 under schedule –I of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Besides, the ambient air quality around incinerator was found to be within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for monitored parameters namely, PM₁₀, SO_x, NO_x, arsenic, lead and benzene.

Further, The Ministry has also issued directions to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for finalisation of facility operator for expeditious disposal of the remaining waste. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has also been assisted in technical matters by Central Pollution Control Board and in the preparation of Request for Proposal (RFP) documents for inviting competitive bids from facility operators so that the waste can be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.
