

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5221**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.04.2022

**Bio-Digester Units**

5221. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:  
DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:  
SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to establish Effective Microorganism Bio-Digester Units to increase the efficiency of waste treatment and biogas production in urban areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has commissioned any pilot projects in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has researched if it can provide these units to farmers at low cost to reduce the problem of stubble burning in rural North India and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c): As per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, local bodies and village panchayats shall facilitate construction, operation and maintenance of solid waste processing facilities and associated infrastructure on their own or with private sector participation or through any agency for optimum utilization of various components of solid waste, by adopting suitable technology and adhering to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs from time to time and also the standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board. Preference shall be given to decentralized processing to minimize transportation cost and environmental impacts such as:

- bio-methanation, microbial composting, vermi-composting, anaerobic digestion or any other appropriate processing for bio-stabilisation of biodegradable wastes;
- waste to energy processes including refused derived fuel for combustible fraction of waste or supply as feedstock to solid waste based power plants or cement kilns

Further, the Central Pollution Control Board has also constituted Standing Committee on Technology for Waste Management for assessment of indigenous technologies and innovative waste management practices. The Committee has prepared a Protocol for Evaluation of Technology for Waste Management.

Compressed biogas plants can use paddy straw stubble and convert it into biogas. These plants can reduce the incidence of stubble burning. The plants for generation of compressed biogas can be supported under SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, as per scheme guidelines.

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