

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4151.
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

e-Waste

4151. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

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

- (a) the details of the policy for regulation of e-waste management;
- (b) whether implementation of the said policy has met with challenges owing to the unorganised nature of the recycling industry and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to the unorganized nature of the recycling industry in India implementing this policy has met with several challenges;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Ministry runs any awareness programmes to apprise such people working in the recycling industry or recycling clusters about the hazards of improper treatment of e-waste; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a): The Ministry has notified E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 on 23rd March, 2016 and has further made amendments in March, 2018 for its effective implementation. The provisions of these Rules include the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), setting up of producer responsibility organizations (PROs), e-waste exchange, specific responsibility to bulk consumers for safe disposal of e-waste. The Rules provide for simplified permission process for setting up of dismantling and recycling facilities through single authorisation by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The State Governments have been entrusted with the responsibility of earmarking industrial spaces for e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities, to undertake industrial skill development activities and establish measures for protection of health and safety of workers engaged in such facilities.

(b) to (d): The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 are based on the principle of EPR which prescribes targets for e-waste collection and channelization to the authorized dismantlers and recyclers. The total collection target assigned to producers of electrical and electronic equipment for the year 2017-18 was 35,422 tonnes, and for FY 2018-19 the target was 1,54,242 tonnes. There are about 312 authorized e-waste recyclers/ dismantlers in the country having annual processing capacity of 7,82,080 tonnes. The total collection targets are well within the total processing capacity of existing dismantlers and recyclers. In order to

formalise informal sector and improve their processes, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change along with the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeitY) has engaged the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) for creation of online e-waste Material Balance System, check leakage of electronic waste to informal sector and improvement in the metal extraction processes.

(e) and (f): The CPCB in association with local bodies and NPC conducted 18 training programmes for various stakeholders including industries, SPCBs & local bodies, recyclers etc in 2017-18. The CPCB has also conducted four training programmes for producers of electrical and electronic equipment between in 2017. In addition, the MeitY, under Digital India initiatives, has initiated a project titled "Awareness Programme on Environmental Hazards of Electronic waste". The programme aims to provide training tools, content materials, videos, printed materials to create awareness in order to reduce the adverse impact on the environment and human health due to the polluting methods, used in the unorganized sector for recycling e-waste. Under the programme, 1923 workshops and activities had been organised in various cities, nearly 13.27 lakhs participants from School, colleges, residents' welfare associations, manufacturer, informal operators etc. The mass awareness amongst the youth of the country has been also been created through cinema, wherein nearly 21.7 crore audience has been covered in 2813 cinema halls.
