

Measures for tackling e-waste

*188. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of e-waste generated in the country and the quantum of e-waste imported into the country through legitimate and illegitimate channels;
- (b) the percentage of e-waste recycled in the formal and the informal sectors, respectively;
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes to implement 'take back scheme' for consumers for all products generating e-waste;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of steps contemplated by Government to address the problem of e-waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (e): Based on a survey carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it is estimated that 1.47 lakh Metric Tons (MT) of e-waste was generated in the country in the year 2005, which is expected to increase to about 8.00 lakh MT by 2012.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes including E-waste. Import and export of such wastes are regulated as per these rules.

Under these Rules, import of e-waste for dumping is not permitted. Import is permitted only for reuse or recycling or reprocessing with the permission of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and/or Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Permission for import is granted to units, which have environmentally sound recycling facility. All import consignments are required to be accompanied by a movement document containing information about composition of the waste, disposal site, etc. The Customs authorities are required to draw random samples from consignments of hazardous wastes and issue directions for re-export of the consignment at the cost of importer in case of violation, including import without prior permission of MoEF. During the last two years, no permission for import of e-waste has been given by the Ministry for recycling or re-processing.

The installed capacity for e-waste recycling in the country is 2,27,236 MT per annum. The Ministry is implementing a Scheme to encourage setting up of integrated recycling facilities for E-waste on Public Private Partnership mode.

As per the rules, E-waste generated is required to be sent to authorized and registered recyclers for environmentally sound disposal. The SPCBs can take action as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) in case of any violation.

For effective implementation of provisions related to import and export, a co-ordination committee has been constituted including representatives from the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (DGFT), the Ministry of Shipping (Department of Ports), the Central Pollution Control Board and selects State Pollution Control Boards. This committee has been working to sensitize the Customs authorities regarding enforcement of these Rules in order to check illegal import of hazardous wastes into the country.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has also notified separate rules titled E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 and 12th May, 2011. These rules will come in to effect from 1st May 2012. The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has been enshrined in these rules to make it a mandatory activity for the manufacturers of electronic and electrical equipments. Under this the producers will be responsible for collection of e-waste generated from the end of life of their products by setting up collection centers or take back systems either individually or collectively. Collection centers will be required to obtain authorization from the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) concerned. Dismantlers and Recyclers will be required to obtain authorization and registration from the SPCB concerned.

Further, Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste brought out by Central Pollution Control Board provide the approach and methodology for environmentally sound management of e-waste.

Thyroid patients in the country

*189. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of patients suffering from thyroid disorders has increased in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has any report about the reasons for the increase in thyroid patients in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir, the number of persons suffering from Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) associated with thyroid gland has decreased in the state of Kerala. Resurveys conducted in two districts namely Ernakulam and Waynad of the state in 2003 showed that the total goiter rate had reduced considerably from 44.7% and 21% to 11.20% and 12.8% respectively.

(c) and (d) No Sir, surveys carried out from time to time have clearly demonstrated significant reduction in total goitre rate in the range of 8% to 35% in the country.