

Waste Management under implementation of Infection Management and Environment Plan (IMEP).

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has prescribed guidelines for Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities as well as for design and construction of Incinerators.

However, Health being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to take necessary steps to monitor the disposal of biomedical wastes through the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the Union Territories, as per the provisions made under the Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, as amended in the years 2000 and 2003. The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are the prescribed authorities to grant authorization for the BMW Management. They are empowered to ensure the compliance of provisions of these Rules.

As per the National Guidelines for Hospital Waste Management mentioned above, the Head of the hospital shall form a waste Management Committee under his Chairmanship. The Waste Management Committee shall meet regularly to review the performance of the waste disposal. This Committee is responsible for making hospital specific action plan for hospital waste management and for its supervision, monitoring implementation and looking after the safety of the bio-medical waste handlers.

Information regarding complaints/ penalty imposed to the violators for violation of these guidelines is not maintained centrally.

#### **Health insurance for CGHS beneficiaries**

1775. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2010, Government mooted a plan to provide health insurance scheme to its serving and retired employees;

(b) if so, the present status of that scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that beneficiaries including Members of Parliament are not getting required medicines from dispensaries specially Ayurvedic dispensary of North Avenue and elsewhere; and

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when Government would seriously consider providing health insurance cover to CGHS beneficiaries in order to provide better healthcare?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for introduction of a health insurance scheme for central government employees and pensioners on pan-India basis with special focus on pensioners living in non-CGHS areas. As per the directions of the 'Committee of Secretaries', a proposal for inclusion of this scheme in the Twelfth Five Year Plan has been sent for consideration of the Steering Committee of the Planning Commission, before placing the same for approval of the competent authority.

(c) No.

(d) No specific time frame can be given for introduction of the proposed health insurance scheme.

#### **Strict enforcement of Anti-Smoking Laws**

1776. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent scholars and health experts have urged Government to forcefully enforce discouragement of smoking in view of huge cost of the diseases being borne by national exchequer due to the habit;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on such views expressed by eminent scholars and health experts;

(c) whether Government proposes to ban manufacture of Cigarettes, Bidis and Gutkas in view of its adverse effect on health; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Representations from various sections of the society including NGOs and Health institutions have been received urging strict enforcement of the provisions made under "Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (COTPA), 2003", and the smokefree rules notified thereunder.

This Ministry has sent regular communication to all the State/UTs for strict enforcement of Act and rules made there under. Moreover, requisite communications