

(c) whether Government has formulated norms for specific disposal of dry batteries and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government against those manufacturers, who have violated norms pertaining to recycling of batteries during each of the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Central Government has notified Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 as amended from time to time for disposal of used lead acid batteries generated from various sources. The Rules stipulate for establishment of collect back mechanism for old batteries. The manufacturers, importers, assemblers and preconditioners are responsible for collecting and channelizing the used batteries to collection centers for final disposal through registered recyclers.

(c) As per the provisions under Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, dry batteries generated from domestic and commercial sources have been classified as domestic hazardous wastes. As per rule 4 of said SWM Rules, 2016, generators of waste are required to segregate dry batteries and dispose the same at collection points designated for domestic hazardous waste by local authorities. Domestic hazardous waste thus collected is required to be disposed through Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) operating in the country.

(d) There are about 641 authorised recyclers of lead acid batteries with an installed capacity of 2.2 Million tonnes per annum. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 1641 registrations, issued to importers of used batteries, have been cancelled for failing to comply with the provisions of the said Rules.

Dietary change for animals in the zoos

2784. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some zoos in the country have decided to stop procurement of poultry meat and replaced it with additional quantities of beef and eggs daily to feed animals, mostly carnivores such as lions, tigers and panthers following outbreak of bird flu an airborne disease in some States, and other diseases like H5N1 virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zoo-wise and State-wise; and

(c) whether the staff has been vigilant and all possible steps have been taken to ensure safety of animals and birds in the zoos in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The establishment and operation/management of the zoo including dietary changes, if any, is the responsibility of the respective Zoo Operator. The information regarding dietary changes for animals, procurement of feed etc. are not compiled and collated at the level of the Ministry. However, the Central Zoo Authority, in view of confirmation of H5N1 Avian Influenza among domestic birds in Puri District of Odisha, Munger District of Bihar and Peafowl housed in the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna, have issued advisory to all the zoos to be alert and to take action as per the advisory in the matter including Action Plan on "Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza".

(c) As specified above, the operation of zoos including the adoption of measures for safety of captive animals housed in zoos is the responsibility of the respective 'Zoo Operator'. Further, one of the functions assigned to the Central Zoo Authority under Section 38-C(i) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, is to provide technical and other assistance to zoos for their proper management and development on scientific lines. Accordingly, the Central Zoo Authority has published a number of technical manuals and has issued Guidelines for technical assistance to the zoos to ensure safety of captive animals housed therein.

E-waste policy

2785. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any policy in place to regulate the electronic waste in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of e-waste produced, collected and recycled in the country during the last three years;

(d) whether Government is complying with the recognised international standards for the disposal of e-waste and the best practices followed for the same;