

To facilitate the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) in implementation of rules, HCFs/CBWTFs are required to obtain Authorization from SPCBs/PCCs under provisions of BMW Rules, 2016. Following technical guidelines have also been issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):—

- Management of Waste by Healthcare Facilities as per Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016;
- Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facilities;
- Handling, Treatment and Disposal of bio-medical waste generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/Quarantine of COVID-19 patients';
- Imposition of Environmental Compensation against CBWTFs and HCFs;
- Verification of Two Second Residence Time in Secondary Combustion Chamber in Bio-medical Waste Incinerator;
- Handling of Bio-medical Waste for Utilization;
- Barcode system for Effective Management of Bio-medical Waste;
- Toolkit for Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.

(c) to (e) The BMW Rules, 2016 mandates for constitution of Committee(s) at Central/State/District level to review, monitor and resolve the issues for their smooth implementation. Accordingly, a Central Monitoring Committee is constituted at MoEFCC. The State Governments/Union Territory Administration(s) have also constituted Advisory Committee(s) under Health Departments. The District Level Monitoring Committee(s) are required to monitor the compliance of rules provisions by HCFs/CBWTFs.

New Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

855. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has abdicated it's responsibility of protection of wetlands to States/UTs under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons why Government has ignored several directions from Supreme Court to notify stricter rules to protect country's wetlands;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new rules fail to cover 9.7 million hectares or sixty five per cent of the total area identified as wetlands, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not issuing directions to State/UT's for identification and protection of wetlands in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) No Sir, for strengthening the conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in consultation with the States, Union Territories, Central line Ministries and other stakeholders, have decentralised certain aspects related to conservation and management of wetlands to State Governments and UT administration by notifying the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. *Vide* these Rules, *inter alia*, the State/Union Territories (UT) Wetland Authorities have been constituted and powers for notification of wetlands have been delegated to the State Governments and UT Administrations. However, the National Wetlands Committee constituted under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, *inter alia* is responsible for advising on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands and recommending trans-boundary wetlands for notification.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 8th February, 2017 in the matter of M. K. Balakrishnan & ORs. Vs. Union of India & ORs. had *inter alia*, directed that the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016 should be notified on or before 30th June, 2017. Further, as requested by MoEF&CC, the Hon'ble Court *vide* order dated 16th August, 2017 had given time till 30th September, 2017 for finalization and notification of the said Rules. The direction of the Hon'ble Court has been duly complied and the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 were published on 26th September, 2017.

(c) The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 define "wetland" as an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes.

While notification of wetlands under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 exempts certain types of wetland from notification, the mandate of conservation is applicable to all wetlands of the country.

(d) Rule 5 and 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 provides a thorough mechanism for identification and protection of wetlands by the States/UTs and specifies timelines for the same. In order to facilitate the States/UTs in implementation of these Rules, Guidelines have also been issued. Further, during the last 3 years, MoEF&CC has executed 14 Regional and 5 National level workshops for technical handholding of wetland managers and stakeholders.

Environmental Clearance for irrigation projects

856. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and medium irrigation projects from various States are pending with Government for environmental/forest clearance;

(b) if so, details of such pending projects, project and State/UT-wise including Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the reasons for delay in granting environmental/forest clearance along with the details of projects sanctioned during the current year, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Medium Irrigation projects (Cultural Command Area: > 2000 and < 10,000 Ha.) submitted to the Ministry at Central level for prior Environment Clearance are dealt as per the provisions of EIA Notification 2006 and as amended thereof. Minor irrigation projects (Cultural Command Area: < 2000 Ha.) are exempted from the requirement of prior Environment Clearance. No Small and Medium Irrigation projects are pending with the Ministry. Status of irrigation projects relating to different State are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Project	Status
1.	Telangana	Channaka-Korata (Rudha) Barrage on Penganga River-Inter-State Irrigation Project, (CCA: 6677.00 ha.), Adilabad district of Telangana.	Recommended by the Expert Appraisal Committee