

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No - 2238
ANSWERED ON- 01/08/2025

SAFE DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

2238. SHRI ADITYA YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the need to focus on preventing waste generation, promoting waste minimization encouraging recycling and reuse and ensuring safe disposal of hazardous chemicals;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard considering the fund that it involves implementing stricter regulations investing in infrastructure, and promoting sustainable practices within the chemical industry; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c) :

(I) The Government of India has notified the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) [HOWM] Rules, 2016 to ensure safe storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous and other wastes in an environmentally sound manner without causing adverse effect to environment and human health. For the plastic waste, Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework has been introduced under these rules for dealing with packaging plastic waste. As regards hazardous chemicals such as Petroleum and its derivatives; preventing waste generation, promoting waste minimization, encouraging recycling and reuse and safe handling of Hazardous Chemicals is as per Petroleum Act, 1934, Inflammable Substance Act, 1952 and provisions of rules framed therein. As regards hazardous chemicals such as explosives; preventing waste generation, promoting waste minimization and safe handling of Hazardous Chemicals is as per Explosives Act, 1884 and provisions of rules framed therein.

(II). To further improve waste management practices, provisions have been laid

down under HOWM Rules, 2016 to follow the waste management hierarchy steps i.e. prevention; minimization; reuse; recycling; recovery; utilization including co-processing and safe disposal through incineration or secured landfilling.

(III) In order to encourage recycling/utilization of commonly recyclable hazardous wastes (listed under Schedule-IV of HOWM Rules, 2016) in an environmentally sound manner, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has prepared guidelines, titled - “Environmentally sound recycling of hazardous wastes” for 10 types of hazardous wastes. Further, for the utilization of hazardous and other wastes in cement kiln, CPCB has prepared guidelines titled - “Pre-processing and Co-processing of hazardous and other wastes in cement plants”.

(IV) Apart from above, for utilization of hazardous and other wastes as a resource or for any other use, CPCB has developed 118 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for utilization of 83 categories of hazardous wastes, which facilitates utilization of these types of wastes as inputs by downstream industry promoting their reuse/ recycling and thereby promoting circular economy.

(V) Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules have been amended in 2023, as a result of which, a new initiative has been taken to bring ‘Used Oil’ under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime. The said Rules promote circular economy and outline the responsibility on producers of Base and Lubrication oil and importers of ‘Used Oil’ for meeting recycling targets only through registered recyclers to ensure environmentally sound management of ‘Used Oil’. The implementation of aforesaid EPR regulation, strengthens circular economy principles by ensuring systematic collection, scrapping, and recycling of Used Oil. It not only facilitates resource conservation but also promotes formalization of the informal sector and business growth for concerned stake holders contributing to a sustainable recycling ecosystem aligning with the Circular Economy Mission.

The said rules also stipulate provisions for payment of Environmental Compensation on part of any Producer, Recycler, Collection agent and Used Oil Importer who fails to comply with the provisions relating to handling and management of Used Oil in an environmentally sound manner in terms of these rules, thereby causing loss, damage or injury to environment or public health.

(VI) Based on the annual inventory submitted by State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees, about 10.06 million MT of hazardous waste has been recycled/ utilized/co-processed during the year 2023-24.
