

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2361
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

False reporting of e-waste Recyclers

2361. SHRI RAKESH RATHOR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of large-scale Goods and Services Tax (GST) fraud, fake invoices and unregistered vendors operating in e-waste recycling sector violating tax laws and environmental norms, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is taking any concrete steps to bring these irregular operators into the formal system, develop a transparent real-time tracking system, better coordination between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and GST authorities to prevent informal transportation and false reporting of e-waste , if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to ease compliance by amending the Extended Producer Responsibility Policy, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering training and integrating informal sector workers into the formal economy and setting up any institutional mechanism for resolving the disputes between producers and recyclers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), they have not received any issue related to large-scale GST fraud, fake invoices and unregistered vendors operating in e-waste recycling sector violating tax and environmental norms.

Ministry has comprehensively revised the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 and notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 in November, 2022 and the same is in force since 1st April, 2023. These new rules provide for managing e-waste in an environmentally sound manner and putting in place an improved Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime for e-waste recycling wherein all the manufacturer, producer, refurbisher and recycler are required to register on portal developed by the CPCB. The new provisions facilitate and channelize the informal sector to formal sector for doing business and ensuring recycling of e-waste in environmentally sound manner. Provisions for environmental compensation and verification & audit have also been introduced. These rules also promote Circular Economy through EPR regime and scientific recycling/disposal of the e-waste. Further, CPCB has taken following steps for effective management of E-Waste Rules as under:

- (i) An online E-Waste EPR portal has been developed by CPCB wherein entities such as producers, manufacturers, recyclers and refurbishers of the e-waste are required to be registered.
- (ii) CPCB has developed guidelines for the scientific and environmentally sound management of e-waste. The guidelines detail the procedures and facilities in terms of machineries and pollution control devices required for the recycling of e-waste in environmentally sound manner.
- (iii) An action plan for implementation of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 is in place and the same is being implemented by all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in their respective States/UTs. SPCBs/PCCs are submitting quarterly progress report. The action plan makes it incumbent upon SPCBs/PCCs to carry out regular drives for checking informal e-waste activities and help them to formalise.
- (iv) The registered entities submit their compliance through Quarterly and Annual Returns on the E-waste Portal.
- (v) Environmental Compensation (EC) Guidelines under E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 have been developed for levying EC on any entity in case of violation of any of the provision of these rules and guidelines issued hereunder.
- (vi) CPCB issued following Directions to SPCBs/PCCs for effective implementation of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022:
 - a) Directions dated 06.09.2022 under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 regarding checking informal e-waste activities, verification of authorized dismantlers/recyclers of E-Waste and drives for mass awareness.
 - b) Directions dated 30.01.2024 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding registration of producers, manufacturers, recyclers and refurbishers on the Online E-Waste EPR Portal.
 - c) Directions dated 14.02.2024 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for ensuring generation of EPR Certificates by E-Waste recyclers towards fulfilment of Producers EPR obligations for the FY 2023-24.

(d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India is involved in developing cost effective technological solutions, skilling, capacity building etc. In order to formalization of informal sector by bringing them in materials supply chain with indigenous technological solution, MeitY has taken few initiatives which are as under:

- MeitY had implemented a programme on Capacity building through skill and entrepreneurship development on e-Waste management at National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Sikkim, Panjab University (PU) Chandigarh and Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET) Hyderabad. Standard course content on e-waste dismantling, segregation has been developed to provide training to the candidates of nearby states/UT i.e Haryana, Panjab, Chandigarh, Andhra-Pradesh, all North Eastern Region etc. The developed course curriculum has been recognized by National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF). More than 1500 candidates have been trained with hands-on-training under the project. An E-waste dismantling and segregation training centre also has been set up at NIELIT Gangtok, PU Chandigarh and CMET Hyderabad for continuous program in these states. A learning management system also has been created for the beneficiaries. Handholding, capacity building and entrepreneurship development by providing training with Industry recognized skill-sets leading to better employability prospects are the main objective of this program.

- To create a complete eco-system to upgrade informal sector into formal value chain a project on “Informal Sector Capacity Building Upgradation with formation of recycling clusters under MSME scheme and Enabling Technology for Recovery of Resources from Electronic Waste thereby Promoting Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy” has been initiated by MeitY.
