

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2194
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
``E - WASTE CONTAMINATION``
Bellarmin Shri A.V.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received the Report from Green Peace India on their study of E-waste contamination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether E-waste contamination has created environmental and human health problems;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the other measures taken by the Government to check environmental pollution caused by E-waste?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Green Peace has carried out a study on the environmental pollution during manufacturing of electronic products in China, Thailand, Philippines and Mexico. No such study has been carried out on E-waste contamination for India.

(c) & (d) E-waste contains certain chemicals and other substances which are toxic and potentially hazardous to environment and human health, if these are not handled in an environmentally sound manner. The different components in the E-waste contain toxic substances such as cadmium, lead, mercury, poly chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) and plastics etc.

(e) The Government of India has taken the following steps to check environmental pollution caused by E-waste:

1. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has notified the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules regulate collection, storage, treatment, disposal and import of hazardous wastes which includes e-waste. The processes generating hazardous wastes are listed in Schedule 1 of these Rules. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are considered as hazardous wastes and are included at S.No.31 of this Schedule.

2. Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has taken steps to promote adoption of cleaner technologies and to motivate the electronics industry to minimize generation of waste in electronic Industry. A comprehensive technical guide on "Environmental Management for Information Technology Industry in India" has been published in 2004 and circulated widely by the DIT.

3. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has undertaken the task of preparation of guidelines entitled "Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste", for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories and the industries for handling e-waste. A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for finalization of these guidelines.