

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:337
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
DISPOSAL OF ELECTRONIC WASTE
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Meghwal Shri Kailash

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

- (a) the electronic waste being generated in the country annually both in terms of quantity and value;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that e-waste contains toxic substances like lead, cadmium, mercury and non-biodegradable plastics which pose serious health hazards and lead to soil and water pollution;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has failed to find out any satisfactory technology for safe disposal of such waste;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the extent of success achieved in this regard;
- (e) whether more than 60 percent of the e-waste collected for recycling in the West is sent to countries in Asia including India where recycling costs are cheaper;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government towards safe disposal of e-waste and banning such imports?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.337 regarding "Disposal of Electronic Waste" raised by Shri Kailash Meghwal, MP and Shrimati Manorama Madhavaraj, MP for Answer on 18.4.2005

(a)&(b): The e-waste comprises waste electronic goods ranging from personal computers to various household appliances such as TV, refrigerator, cellphones, etc. Hence, no such assessment has been made in terms of quantity and value. E-waste contains toxic substances like lead, cadmium, mercury and non-biodegradable plastics which may pose serious health hazards and lead to soil and water pollution, if not disposed in an environmentally sound manner.

(c)&(d): Safe management of e-waste include re-use, recycling, resource recovery and final disposal in secured landfills.

(e) to (g): As per the provisions of the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 and amendments thereof, waste Electrical and Electronic Assemblies are covered under category A 1180 and Category B 1110 in List-A and B of Schedule-3 (Part-A) applicable for import and export of hazardous wastes, and the wastes under this category are only permitted for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal. The import of this waste, therefore, requires specific permission from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. So far, no such permission has been granted to any person(s) by this Ministry.