GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 677
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021

Increased plastic waste due to COVID 19

677. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

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

(a) the plastic waste generated since March 2018 till date;
(b) whether the generation of plastic waste in the country has increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
(c) if so, initiatives Government has taken to ensure its treatment as biomedical hazardous waste and not as normal waste?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) : The plastic waste generated since March 2018 is given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Plastic Waste Generation (Tonnes per Annum)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>34,69,780</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>33,60,043</td>
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The Government has from time to time issued guidelines/ standard operating procedures (SOPs) on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID 19. These guidelines/SOPs inter alia include use of personal protective equipment and face covers/masks. The Central Pollution Control Board has issued “Guidelines for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients”. The Guidelines provide steps for handling, treatment and disposal of wastes including plastic wastes. There is a separate section dealing with disposal of personal protective equipment including waste masks and gloves being generated from households, commercial establishments, shopping malls, institutions, offices etc.

Further, to track the generation and disposal of COVID-19 Bio-medical Waste (BMW), CPCB has developed an app namely COVID19 BWM. The biomedical waste generated between June-2020 to June-2021 is 56898.4 tonnes.

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