

Central Pollution Control Board
Waste Management Division – I

Minutes of meeting of High Level Task Team with SPCBs/PCCs and State Health, UD and Environment Departments to Review Status of COVID-19 Waste Management by States/UTs

1. Background:

CPCB constituted a High Level Task Team (HLTT) comprising senior officers representing MoEF&CC, MoHFW, MoHUA, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Jal Shakti to review overall management and scientific treatment of COVID-19 waste in the Country. HLTT held first review meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri Shiv Das Meena, Chairman, CPCB on 26/05/2020 with Chairmen/Member Secretaries of State Pollution Control Boards(SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees(PCCs) and officials representing Health, Environment and Urban Development Departments of respective States. Meeting was conducted through Video Conference in two slots at 11:30AM and 3:30PM. List of participants is given at Annexure I.

Chairman, welcomed the members of HLTT and participants from SPCBs/PCCs, State Health, Environment and Urban Departments. In his opening remarks, he pointed out that strict implementation of provisions of BMW Rules, 2016 is necessary for safe disposal of COVID-19 related biomedical waste. Subsequently he emphasized on following points;

- Need to ensure segregation of general solid waste and biomedical waste in isolation wards, quarantine centers, quarantine homes and homecare units.
- Identify the incinerators in existing TSDFs as well as the captive disposal facilities of industry as stand-by facilities for disposal of waste in case need arises.
- Closely monitor the chain of disposal of biomedical waste generated by hospitals, quarantine centers/camps, home care etc.
- Usage of CPCB tracking App (mobile application & web portal) to ensure every Kg of waste gets accounted.

2. Sh. B Vinod Babu, Nodal Officer Waste Management Division, CPCB gave presentation (copy enclosed) on CPCB guidelines, responsibilities of different stakeholders and Action Points for compliance by States/UTs
3. Thereafter, member representing MoH&FW re-emphasized the need for proper segregation of waste for effective management of waste related to COVID-19 situation. Colonel Ghosh from DGAFMS has informed that AFMS has established one of the first quarantine centers and developed several other

quarantine facilities and isolation wards across the country. He informed that DGAFMS has taken adequate facilities for management of COVID-19 related waste as per CPCB guidelines. Member representing Ministry of Jal Shakti has emphasized that the CPCB guideline should address safe methods for disposal of personal protection gear in common households. Member representing MoHUA has informed that issues with regard to segregation of general wastes in quarantine centers and quarantine homes, are getting resolved gradually in line with CPCB guidelines.

4. States/UTs have highlighted the actions taken, practical difficulties faced in implementation and also suggested for revision of CPCB guidelines for more clarity. States/UTs have also requested intervention of CPCB in some of the issues.

After deliberations, following actions points have been decided for compliance;

(i) **Use of CPCB tracking App. for COVID19 waste:**

- a. SPCBs/PCCs shall ensure that every generator and is registered on CPCB's Tracking App and make daily entries. The system should be made functional within 7 days. SPCBs/UTs should also start submitting daily status reports only through Tracking App (Web-portal).
- b. States/UTs who are presently not generating COVID-19 waste should also implement the App and may report the data as 'nil'.
- c. Waste Management and IT Divisions in CPCB shall resolve the issues raised by SPCBs/UTs in implementing Tracking App and also circulate user manual.

(ii) **Segregation of Biomedical Waste:**

- a. SPCBs/PCCs and State Health Department should ensure that segregation of biomedical waste is practiced by hospitals treating COVID-19 patients as per the colour categorization stipulated under BMWM Rules, 2016 and CPCB guidelines.
- b. SPCBs/PCCs and State UD Department should ensure strict segregation of general waste and biomedical waste at quarantine centers, quarantine homes and homecare.
- c. As a matter of abundant caution, general waste generated from these facilities may be treated with disinfectant prior to disposal.

- (iii) **Ensure daily lifting of solid waste from hospitals treating COVID-19 patients:** State/UT Department of UD shall ensure that the solid waste is lifted every day from hospitals treating COVID-19 patients as well as quarantine camps/homes as per their usual practice. They shall also ensure that personal protection gear is given to waste handlers engaged by ULBs.

- (iv) **Revision of CPCB guidelines:** CPCB may revise the existing guidelines to bring in clarity, guidance on segregation of wastes, safety of waste handler associated with healthcare

facilities, ULBs and CBWTFs. Revision of guidelines may also include citizen specific guidance on segregation of waste at homecare.

- (v) **Monitoring of deep burial pits:** SPCBs/PCCs being prescribed authorities shall maintain inventory of deep-burial pits, monitor the practice of using deep burial for disposal of COVID-19 waste and ensure scientific disposal as per standards given under BMWM Rules, 2016.
- (vi) **Directions to concerned Departments in the State:** In case the situation warrants, SPCBs/PCCs may issue appropriate directions to concerned Departments in the State to ensure compliance to CPCB guidelines.
- (vii) **Compliance to CPCB guidelines:** Stakeholders like hospitals, CBWTF operators, Urban Local Bodies shall perform their duties in line with CPCB guidelines for proper disposal of COVID-19 waste.
- (viii) **Safety & security of waste handlers:** MoHUA shall ensure that adequate PPEs are available with concerned departments for COVID-19 waste handlers.
- (ix) **Awareness among the waste handlers:** SPCBs/PCCs, State Health and Urban Departments should provide awareness / trainings to the workers involved in handling of COVID-19 waste. Records of training should be submitted as part of compliance reporting.
- (x) **Template for District Model Plan:** CPCB shall prepare a Model Plan on management of COVID-19 waste suitable for Panchayat, sub-Divisions and District level to facilitate States/UTs to prepare similar plans considering local conditions.
- (xi) **Submission of Action Taken Report:** A status report on compliance shall be submitted by 04.06.2020 by SPCBs/PCCs. The report may be prepared jointly by SPCBs/PCCs and State Health and UD Departments.

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List of participants

High Level Task Team / State/UT	Name of Participants
High level task team members	Sh. Brijesh Sikka, Sr. Consultant, NMCG
	Col. S. Ghosh, DGAFMS
	Dr. V. K. Chaurasia, Joint Advisor, MoHUA Sh. Aditya Narayan, AD, MoEF&CC
	Dr. Nandini Duggal, Sr. Microbiologist, RML Hospital (Representative from MoHFW)
	Dr. V. K. Chaurasia, Joint Advisor, MoHUA
	Sh. Aditya Narayan, AD, MoEF&CC
Morning Slot 11:30am	
Andhra Pradesh	APPCB official
Assam	Member Secretary
Bihar	Chairman
Goa	Member Secretary
Himachal Pradesh	HPPCB official
Jharkhand	Member Secretary
J & K	Member Secretary
Karnataka	KSPCB official
Kerala	Member Secretary
Madhya Pradesh	Member Secretary
Maharashtra	Member Secretary
Manipur	Member Secretary
Meghalaya	Member Secretary
Mizoram	Member Secretary
Nagaland	NSPCB official
Uttarakhand	Member Secretary
After Noon Slot 03:30pm	
Andaman Nicobar	Chairman and Member Secretary
Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh PCB officials
Chandigarh	Member Secretary
Chhattisgarh	Member Secretary
Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Chairman
Delhi	Member Secretary
Gujarat	Member Secretary
Haryana	Chairman
Lakshadweep	Member Secretary and official from Environment and Forest Department

Odisha	Member Secretary
Puducherry	Chairman
Punjab	Chairman and MS
Rajasthan	Member Secretary
Sikkim	Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu	Chairman
Telangana	Member Secretary & Principle Secretary, Environment Department
Tripura	Member Secretary
Uttar Pradesh	Member Secretary
West Bengal	Officials from WBSPCB and Health Department of West Bengal