

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

(Through Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 72/2020

In Re: Scientific Disposal of Bio-Medical Waste arising out of
COVID-19 treatment- Compliance of BMW Rules, 2016

Date of hearing: 21.04.2020

Date of uploading of order: 23.04.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.P WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For CPCB :

Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary
for CPCB with Mr. Rajkumar, Advocate

ORDER

1. The issue for consideration is the remedial action to address the gaps in compliance of the BMW Rules, 2016, as applicable to the disposal of bio-medical waste arising out of handling of COVID-19 disease, so as to ensure protection of environment and public health, in view of potential of such infectious waste adversely affecting public health, concerned workers and professionals etc.
2. The matter was heard on 21.04.2020 when we interacted with the Member Secretary, CPCB and perused the guidelines issued by the CPCB, last revised on 18.04.2020. It was observed:

“2. We have also taken into consideration the concern on the subject expressed in news item dated 19.04.2020, published in the Indian Express titled ‘Biomedical waste facilities, a red flag in coronavirus fight’, authored by Apurva Vishwanath and Karishma Mehrotra.

3. *This Tribunal is already dealing with the subject of addressing gaps in bio-medical waste management generally in O.A No.710/2017, Shailesh Singh v. Sheela Hospital & Trauma Center, Shahjahanpur & Ors. and has given further directions on 22.1.2020 in respect of gaps emerging from report of CPCB dated 15.11.2019 based on information furnished by the States/UTs. The waste generated on account of Covid-19 disease has presented further challenge which calls for this order.*
 4. *We have perused the 'Guidelines for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/ Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients' issued by the CPCB, last revised on 18.4.2020 and heard Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, CPCB. We had interaction broadly on the need for revision of the laid down guidelines to address all concerns in the light of best practices and experience from time to time so that all aspects of scientific disposal of liquid and solid waste management are taken care of not only at institution level but also at individual levels (such as manner of disposal of used PPEs, used bags, gloves, goggles, etc., without the same getting straightaway mixed with other municipal solid waste causing contamination etc.), dealing with situations where adequate facilities (like incinerators) are not available, distinct colour guidelines for the bins etc., reviewing effectiveness of the monitoring mechanism, including securing information by way of electronic manifest system from the handlers of such waste and its online reporting by the State PCBs/PCCs on daily basis by developing necessary software, creating awareness by special awareness programmers, organizing trainings in concerned Local Bodies, Health Departments, etc., providing workers handling COVID-19 waste with adequate protective gear, adequate coordination with media and other concerned regulatory authorities in the States and the Central Government. We have also observed that out of 2.7 lakh HCFs identified, only 1.1 lakh HCFs are authorized under the BMW Management Rules, 2016 so far. The State PCBs/PCCs have to make serious efforts to bridge this gap to mitigate possible risk in terms of unscientific disposal of bio-medical waste and to enforce rule of law.*
 5. *We are of the view that to the above extent, the task of PCBs and the CPCB is part of essential health services for COVID-19. The CPCB may convey this to all concerned.*
 6. *Further order reserved. The same will be uploaded on or before 27.04.2020, after due interaction with the members."*
3. As already noted, the matter of addressing gaps in compliance of Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 generally is already subject matter of consideration before the Tribunal in O.A No. 710/2017, Shailesh Singh v. Sheela Hospital & Trauma Center, Shahjahanpur & Ors. which last came up for hearing on 22.01.2020. It was observed:

“2.unscientific disposal of bio-medical waste had potential of serious diseases such as Gastrointestinal infection, Respiratory infection, Eye infection, Genital infection, Skin infection, Anthrax, Meningitis, AIDS, Haemorrhagic fevers, Septicaemia, Viral Hepatitis type A, Viral Hepatitis type B and C, etc. Such unscientific disposal also causes environmental pollution leading to unpleasant smell, growth and multiplication of vectors like insects, rodents and worms and may lead to the transmission of diseases like typhoid, cholera, hepatitis and AIDS through injuries from syringes and needles contaminated with various communicable diseases”

3. Reference was also made to the report of the CAG placed on its website in May, 2017 as follows:

“Inadequate facility of bio-medical waste (BMW) treatment. As per the report paragraph 2.1.9.5 there were 8,366 Health Care Establishments (HCEs) out of which 3,362 HCEs were operating without authorization. **Total BMW generated in the State was 37,498 kg/day out of which only 35,816 kg/day was treated and disposed of. BMW of 1,682 kg/day was being disposed of untreated due to inadequate treatment facility.** But UPPCB failed to monitor unauthorised operation and untreated disposal of BMW and did not take any action against the defaulters.”

4. The matter was again reviewed on 15.07.2019 in the light of the report of the CPCB particularly with reference to inventory of HCFs and biomedical waste generation, operation of healthcare facilities without authorization, **action by the States with no treatment & disposal facilities, implementation of Barcode system, constitution of State Level Advisory Committees, submission of Action Plans by State Governments, key performance indicators, Environmental Compensation for violation by the healthcare facilities and Environmental Compensation for common biomedical waste treatment facility.**

5. The recommendations in the report were accepted. All the States/UTs were directed to take further action on that basis. The Tribunal also directed:-


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7. The States/UTs may furnish complete inventory of HCFs and BMW generation within two months and where the inventories are incomplete, the same may be completed. We place on record our disapproval of the inaction of States in furnishing the inventory studies as well as for incomplete inventories. **It is regretful to note that 25% of identified HCFs have not even taken authorization from the concerned State PCBs in absence of which, monitoring of waste management is not taking place. The States which have not set up common treatment and disposal facility must do so within two months**



as per Rules. The States who have not furnished the information on the barcode system may also furnish such information at the earliest but not beyond two months. The States which have not yet constituted State Level Advisory Committee may also do so within two months. The action plans and their execution must be carried out having regard to the key performance indicators. **The States which have inadequate action plans, not satisfactory action plans, needing further actions must also do the needful within two months realizing their responsibility to the environment and public health which ought to be monitored directly by the Chief Secretaries in terms of order of this Tribunal dated 16.01.2019 in O.A. No. 606/2018 and further orders in the said matter.** By the further order in the said matter in the case of all the States, directions were issued that Chief Secretaries may personally monitor compliance of environmental norms (including BMW Rules) with the District Magistrate once every month. The District Magistrates may conduct such monitoring twice every month. We find it necessary to add that in view of Constitutional provisions under Articles 243 G, 243 W, 243 ZD read with Schedules 11 and 12 and Rule 15 of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, it is necessary to have a District Environment Plan to be operated by a District Committee (as a part of District Planning Committee under Article 243 ZD) with representatives from Panchayats, Local Bodies, Regional Officers, State PCB and a suitable officer representing the administration, which may in turn be chaired and monitored by the District Magistrate. Such District Environment Plans and Constitution of District Committee may be placed on the website of Districts concerned. The monthly report of monitoring by the District Magistrate may be furnished to the Chief Secretary and may be placed on the website of the District and kept on such websites for a period of one year. This may be made operative from 1.08.2019. Compliance of this direction may also be seen by the Chief Secretaries of the States/UTs. This may not only comply with mandate of law but provide an institutional mechanism for effective monitoring of environment norms. Needless to say that right to clean environment being part of right to life, such effective monitoring is a must. Such monitoring must include issues specified in the order of this Tribunal dated 16.01.2019, O.A No. 606/2018, Para 40 which is as follows:-

- "a. Status of compliance of SWM Rule, 2016, Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and **Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016** in their respective areas.
- b. Status of functioning of Committees constituted by this order.
- c. Status of the Action Plan in compliance vide order dated 20.09.2018 in the News Item published in "The Hindu" authored 25 by Shri Jacob Koshy Titled "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB (Original Application No. 673/2018).

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- d. Status of functioning of Committees constituted in News Item Published in "The Times of India" Authored by Shri Vishwa Mohan Titled "NCAP with Multiple 5 timelines to Clear Air in 102 Cities to be released around August 15" dated 08.10.2018.
- e. Status of Action Plan with regard to identification of polluted industrial clusters in O.A. No. 1038/2018, News item published in "The Asian Age" Authored by Sanjay Kaw Titled "CPCB to rank industrial units on pollution levels" dated 13.12.2018.
- f. Status of the work in compliance of the directions passed in O.A. No. 173 of 2018, Sudarsan Das v. State of West Bengal & Ors. Order dated 04.09.2018.
- g. Total amount collected from erring industries on the basis of 'Polluter Pays' principle, 'Precautionary principle' and details of utilization of funds collected.
- h. Status of the identification and development of Model Cities and Towns in the State in the first phase which can be replicated later for other cities and towns of the State."
9. Further important issues flagged for monitoring include training programs for the officers concerned with enforcement of environment norms at the ground level, reuse of treated water, recharge of ground water, conservation of water bodies.¹ It has been brought to our notice that State PCBs are facing certain handicaps in performing their functions for want of adequate staff and infrastructure. While this is a matter to be reviewed by concerned Chief Secretaries, the State PCBs/PCCs are free to prepare and execute appropriate plans for utilizing the environment restoration fund with the approval of CPCB. The expenditure may include hiring of experts and consultants, expanding air and water quality monitoring network, procurement of scientific equipment, undertaking restitution remediation and specialized studies on contaminated sites so that there is effective oversight for enforcement of law. Under no circumstances these funds be spent on salaries, logistics etc.
10. The compensation regime suggested by the CPCB may be adopted. It will be open to the State PCBs/PCCs to adopt a higher scale of compensation, having regard to the problems faced in such States/UTs.
11. It is made clear that if even after two months the States/UTs are found to be non-compliant, the compensation will be liable to be recovered from the said States/UTs at the rate of Rs. 1 Crore per month till the non-compliance continues.
12. The CPCB may file further progress report in the matter after coordination through the concerned authorities of the States, including the State Boards/other Health Departments.

¹ See order dated 17.05.2019, O.A. No 606/2018, Para No. 27 (vi, vii, viii)

13. The Chief Secretaries may furnish their respective compliance reports as per orders passed in O.A No. 606/2018, Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.”

6. The CPCB has filed further report dated 15.11.2019 which sets out the reports from different States/UTs with reference to the following action points:-

1. Complete inventory of HCFs generating biomedical waste.
2. Authorization to all non-bedded HCFs like clinics, laboratories, research institutes as well as veterinary hospitals etc. identified in inventory of HCFs within 3 months.
- 3(i). Adequate number of Common Facilities and to cover all HCFs in the State. [Also to ensure adequate number of Common Biomedical].
- 3(ii). Restriction of Deep Burial pits [should be permitted only if necessary and to ensure that they are constructed as per standards given under BMWM Rules, 2016.]
4. Constitution of State and District Advisory Committees. 5. Barcodes system in every HCF and CBWTFs.
6. Monitoring of Healthcare Facilities other than hospitals/clinics – Veterinary Hospitals, Animal Houses, AYUSH Hospitals, blood banks, Pathological labs etc.
7. Availability of adequate infrastructure with SPCBs/PCCs to monitor compliance.
- 8(i). **Training and Capacity Building of officials of health Department and SPCBs.**
- 8(ii). **Training and Capacity Building of Healthcare workers in HCFs.**
9. **Installation of OCEMS by CBWTFs as a tool for self monitoring and compliance verification by SPCBs/PCCs.**
10. Submission of Annual Reports to CPCB.
11. **Compliance to standards by CBWTFs.**
12. **Compliance of HCFs [For on-site segregation, pretreatment of infectious waste-yellow (h), separate storage space for BMW and treatment of wastewater].**
13. Monitoring of compliance of BMW management as per District environmental Plan by the District Magistrates.”

7. COVID 19 pandemic has emerged in the last few months and has affected number of people across the world. More than one and a half lac people have died world over and more than 600 in India. The virus spreads mainly by droplets and also by touch of contaminated articles. To prevent spread, lock down has been enforced, restricting people to their homes, so as to avoid social contact. Affected persons are treated

in hospitals and those suspected are quarantined in various facilities or at home. Large scale testing has been and is being done. By way of precaution, masks, gloves, PPE etc. are used which are disposed of thereafter. In the process, huge bio-medical waste is generated which itself can be source of disease. While the BMW Rules generally take care of the situation by way elaborate provisions to deal with biomedical waste generated in dealing with infectious diseases such as HIV, HINI etc., present pandemic has presented further challenge inter-alia on account of:

- i. Existing gaps in compliance of BMW Rules in terms of capacity to scientifically dispose of generated waste and non-compliance of procedural and monitoring aspects;
 - ii. COVID-19 virus has emerged suddenly and is highly infectious, requiring more precautions compared to other infectious diseases.
8. To deal with the situation, CPCB has issued guidelines which were last updated on 08.04.2020. The updated guidelines are:

“Guidelines for Handling, Treatment, and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment /Diagnosis/Quarantine of COVID-19 patients-Rev.2

“In order to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, State and Central Governments have initiated various steps, which include setting up of quarantine centers/camps, Isolation wards, sample collection centers and laboratories.

Following specific guidelines for management of waste generated during diagnostics and treatment of COVID-19 suspected / confirmed patients, are required to be followed by all the stakeholders including isolation wards, quarantine centers, sample collection centers, laboratories, ULBs and common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities, in addition to existing practices under BMW Management Rules, 2016.

These guidelines are based on current knowledge on COVID-19 and

existing practices in management of infectious waste generated in hospitals while treating viral and other contagious diseases like HIV, H1N1, etc. These guidelines will be updated if need arises. This Revision-2 of guidelines is mainly to incorporate specific requirements and responsibilities of persons operating sewage treatment plants at Healthcare Facilities and to clarify on management of general waste from quarantine homes and masks/gloves from other households.

Guidelines brought out by WHO, MoH&FW, ICMR, CDC and other concerned agencies from time to time may also be referred.

Guidelines for handling, treatment and disposal of COVID-19 waste at Healthcare Facilities, Quarantine Camps/ Quarantine-homes/ Home-care, Sample Collection Centers, Laboratories, SPCBs/PCCs, ULBs and CBWTFs is give below;

(a) COVID-19 Isolation wards: (isolation wards are those where COVID-19 positive patients are being kept for treatment / diagnosis)

Healthcare Facilities having isolation wards for COVID-19 patients need to follow these steps to ensure safe handling and disposal of biomedical waste generated during treatment;

- Keep separate color coded bins/bags/containers in wards and maintain proper segregation of waste as per BMWM Rules, 2016 as amended and CPCB guidelines for implementation of BMW Management Rules.
- As precaution double layered bags (using 2 bags) should be used for collection of waste from COVID-19 isolation wards so as to ensure adequate strength and no-leaks;
- Collect and store biomedical waste separately prior to handing over the same CBWTF. Use a dedicated collection bin labelled as "COVID-19" to store COVID-19 waste and keep separately in temporary storage room prior to handing over to authorized staff of CBWTF. Biomedical waste collected in such isolation wards can also be lifted directly from ward into CBWTF collection van.
- In addition to mandatory labelling, bags/containers used for collecting biomedical waste from COVID-19 wards, should be labelled as "COVID-19 Waste". This marking would enable CBWTFs to identify the waste easily for priority treatment and disposal immediately upon the receipt.
- General waste not having contamination should be disposed as solid waste as per SWM Rules, 2016.
- Maintain separate record of waste generated from COVID-19 isolation wards
- Use dedicated trolleys and collection bins in COVID-19 isolation wards. A label "COVID-19 Waste" to be pasted on these items also.

- The (inner and outer) surface of containers/bins/trolleys used for storage of COVID-19 waste should be disinfected with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution daily.
- Report opening or operation of COVID-19 ward and COVID ICU ward to SPCBs and respective CBWTF located in the area.
- Depute dedicated sanitation workers separately for biomedical waste and general solid waste so that waste can be collected and transferred timely to temporary waste storage area.
- Feces from COVID-19 confirmed patient, who is unable to use toilets and excreta is collected in diaper, must be treated as biomedical waste and should be placed in yellow bag/container. However, if a bedpan is used, then faces to be washed into toilet and cleaned with a neutral detergent and water, disinfected with a 0.5% chlorine solution, then rinsed with clean water. ^{a1}
- Collect used PPEs such as goggles, face-shield, splash proof apron, Plastic Coverall, Hazmet suit, nitrile gloves into Red bag; ^{a2}
- Collect used masks (including triple layer mask, N95 mask, etc.), head cover/cap, shoe-cover, disposable linen Gown, non-plastic or semi-plastic coverall in Yellow bags. ^{a3}

[^{a1 to a3} Inserted in Rev. 2 of guidelines dated 18/04/2020]

(b) Sample Collection Centers and Laboratories for COVID-19 suspected patients

Report opening or operation of COVID-19 sample collection centers and laboratories to concerned SPCB. Guidelines given at section (a) for isolation wards should be applied suitably in in case of test centers and laboratories. Pre-treat viral transport media, plastic vials, vacutainers, Eppendorf tubes, plastic cryovials, pipette tips as per BMWM Rules, 2016 and collect in Red bags. ^{b1}

[^{b1} Inserted in Rev. 2 of guidelines dated 18/04/2020]

(c) Responsibilities of persons operating Quarantine Camps/Homes or Home-Care facilities*

Less quantity of biomedical waste is expected from quarantine Camps / Quarantine Home/ Home-care facilities. However, the persons responsible for operating quarantine camps/centers/home-care for suspected COVID-19 persons need to follow the below mentioned steps to ensure safe handling and disposal of waste;

- General solid waste (household waste) generated from quarantine centers or camps should be handed over to waste collector identified by Urban Local Bodies or as per the prevailing local method of disposing

general solid waste.

- *Biomedical waste if any generated from quarantine centers/camps should be collected separately in yellow colored bags (suitable for biomedical waste collection) provided by ULBs. These bags can be placed in separate and dedicated dust-bins of appropriate size.*
- *Persons operating Quarantine camps/centers should call the CBWTF operator to collect biomedical waste as and when it gets generated. Contact details of CBWTFs would be available with Local Authorities.*
- *Persons taking care of quarantine home / Home-care should deposit biomedical waste if any generated from suspected or recovered COVID-19 patients, by following any of the following methods as may be arranged by ULBs;*
- *Hand over the yellow bags containing biomedical waste to authorized waste collectors at door steps engaged by local bodies; or*
- *Deposit biomedical waste in yellow bags at designated deposition Centers established by ULBs. The bag again be stored in yellow bag or container; or*
- *Handover the biomedical waste to waste collector engaged by CBWTF operator at the doorstep.*
- *Persons operating Quarantine camps/centers or Quarantine-homes/Home-care should report to ULBs in case of any difficulty in getting the services for disposal of solid waste or biomedical waste.*

Clarifications:

- *Quarantine Camps / Quarantine-Home are the places where suspected people or the contacts of suspected / confirmed cases who have been directed by authorized hospitals or local authorities to stay at home for at least 14 days or more for observation for any symptom of COVID-19, if any.*
- *Homecare – Home care facility is a home where care is to be provided to a COVID-19 positive patient at home. ^{C1}*
- *Biomedical waste at Quarantine Camps / Home-care may also comprise of used syringes, date expired or discarded medicines, used masks/gloves and in case of patients with other chronic diseases may also include drain bags, urine bags, body fluid or blood soaked tissues/cotton, empty ampules etc.*
- *Biomedical waste generated from Quarantine Camps / Quarantine-Home / Home-care would be treated as ‘domestic hazardous waste’ as defined under Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and shall be disposed as per provisions under Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and these guidelines.*
- *General waste from Quarantine Camps / Quarantine-Home / Home-care shall be disposed as solid waste as per provisions under SWM Rules, 2016*

- Used masks and gloves generated from home quarantine or other households should be kept in paper bag for a minimum of 72 hours prior to disposal of the same as general waste. It is advisable to cut the masks prior to disposal to prevent reuse.^{c2}

[*Amended in Rev. 1 of guidelines dated 25/03/2020]

[c1 and c2 Amended in Rev. 2 of guidelines dated 18/04/2020]

[c2: Criteria for 72 hours is as per CDC guidelines for Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators]

(d) Duties of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF):

- Report to SPCBs/PCCs about receiving of waste from COVID-19 isolation wards / Quarantine Camps / Quarantined homes / COVID-19 Testing Centers;
- Operator of CBWTF shall ensure regular sanitization of workers involved in handling and collection of biomedical waste;
- Workers shall be provided with adequate PPEs including three layer masks, splash proof aprons/gowns, nitrile gloves, gum boots and safety goggles;
- Use dedicated vehicle to collect COVID-19 ward waste. It is not necessary to place separate label on such vehicles;
- Vehicle should be sanitized with sodium hypochlorite or any appropriate chemical disinfectant after every trip.
- COVID-19 waste should be disposed-off immediately upon receipt at facility.

In case it is required to treat and dispose more quantity of biomedical waste generated from COVID-19 treatment, CBWTF may operate their facilities for extra hours, by giving information to SPCBs/PCCs.

- Operator of CBWTF shall maintain separate record for collection, treatment and disposal of COVID-19 waste.
- Do not allow any worker showing symptoms of illness to work at the facility. May provide adequate leave to such workers and by protecting their salary.

(e) Duties of SPCBs/PCCs

- Shall maintain records of COVID-19 treatment wards / quarantine centers / quarantine homes in respective States.
- Ensure proper collection and disposal of biomedical waste as per BMW Rules, 2016 and SOPs given in this guidance document;
- Allow CBWTFs to operate for extra hours as per requirement;
- May not insist on authorisation of quarantine camps as such facilities does not qualify as health facilities. However, may allow CBWTFs to collect biomedical waste as and when required;
- In case of States not having CBWTFs as well as rural or remote areas, not having access to CBWTFs, the existing captive facilities of any

hospital may be identified for disposal of COVID- 19 waste as per provisions under BMWM Rules, 2016 and these guidelines. This may include permitting use of deep burial pits for disposal of yellow category waste as per standards prescribed in Schedule II of Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.¹

- *Coordinate with CBWTFs and ULBs in establishing adequate facilities for collection and disposal of COVID-19 waste.*
- *In case of generation of large volume of yellow color coded (incinerable) COVID-19 waste, permit HW incinerators at existing TSDFs to incinerate the same by ensuring separate arrangement for handling and waste feeding.*

[e¹Amended in Rev. 2 of guidelines dated 18/04/2020]

(f) Duties of Urban Local Bodies +

Urban Local Bodies are responsible for ensuring safe collection and disposal of biomedical waste, if any, generated from Quarantine Camps/ Quarantine Homes/ Home Care for COVID-19 suspected persons.

- *Information on each Quarantine Camps/ Quarantine Homes/ Home-Care should be available with local administration and provide updated list to SPCBs from time to time;*
- *In case of quarantine camps, ensure that biomedical waste is collected directly by CBWTFs identified by ULB. Waste from quarantine camps to be lifted by CBWTFs on call basis as and when the biomedical waste gets generated. Provide contact details of CBWTF operator at Quarantine Camps;*
- *Provide necessary support, security including authorisation to staff of CBWTFs;*
- *ULB shall engage CBWTF operator for ultimate disposal of biomedical waste collected from quarantine home/home care or waste deposition centers or from door steps as may be required depending on local situation; ULB shall make agreement with CBWTF in this regard.*
- *ULBs envisage following options to facilitate safe collection and disposal of biomedical waste from quarantined homes/Home care;*
 - a) *Engage authorized waste collectors for door steps collection of biomedical waste and transfer to collection points for further pick-up by CBWTF; and/or*
 - b) *In case number of quarantined homes/Home-care units are less, ULBs may engage services of CBWTFs to collect the waste directly from door-steps.*
- *Provide yellow colored bags (designated for BMW) to the persons responsible for operating Quarantine Camp or home-care. If required, such bags may be provided through CBWTF.*
- *ULBs shall ensure the following in engaging authorized waste*

collectors at door-steps or at waste deposition centers;

- *Create a separate team of workers who shall be engaged in door step waste collection at waste deposition centres or at quarantine homes or home care.*
- *Ensure that only designated staff collects biomedical waste from quarantine homes or home care.*
- *Training should be provided for sanitization, about collection of biomedical waste, precautionary measures to handle biomedical waste.*
- *Impart training to waste collector in handling of biomedical waste including methods of sanitization. Training to waste collectors should be arranged through CBWTF operators;*
- *The staff involved in handling and collection of waste from quarantine homes or home care centers shall be provided with adequate Personnel Protective Equipment such as three layer masks, splash proof aprons/gowns, heavy-duty gloves, gum boots and safety goggles. These PPEs are required to be worn all the time while collecting of waste from quarantine center/quarantine homes/home care/waste deposition centres.*
- *Use dedicated carts / trolleys / vehicles for transport of biomedical waste. Ensure sanitization of vehicles with 1% hypochlorite after each trip.*
- *Ensure that, waste collectors arriving at quarantine center or at home care shall spray the disinfectant (1% hypochlorite solution) on the bin used for yellow bag.*
- *Establish common waste deposition centers (as stipulated under SWM Rules, 2016) for receiving / collection of biomedical waste. For this purpose, existing Dhalaos if any may be converted suitably.*
- *The general solid waste collected from quarantine homes or home care shall be disposed of as per SWM Rules, 2016.*
- *Services of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment & Disposal Facilities (CBWTFs) and staff associated with CBWTFs for collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of biomedical waste generated from hospitals including COVID-19 isolation wards, Quarantine Camps, etc. may be considered an essential service as part of health infrastructure.*
- *Facilitate smooth operations of CBWTFs.*
- *Local agencies / ULBs may take additional measures considering prevailing ground situations and feasibility, however while implementing such measures requirements outlined in these guidelines should be complied.*^{f1}

[+ Inserted in Rev. 1 of guidelines dated 25/03/2020] ^{f1} Amended in Rev. 2 of guidelines dated 18/04/2020]

(g) Management of wastewater from HCFs / Isolation Wards ⁺⁺

As per the information available at CDC, the risk of transmission of virus that causes COVID-19 through sewerage systems is thought to be low. Transmission to operators may be possible during treatment of sewage treatment plants, however there is no evidence to date that this has occurred. Therefore, following guidance recommended for HCFs and the operators of STPs;

- Responsible agencies are Healthcare Facilities / Isolation Wards / operators of terminal sewage treatment plants (PHED/ Jal Board/ etc.).
- HCFs and the agencies operating Sewage Treatment Plants should continue to ensure disinfection of treated wastewater as per prevailing practices to inactivate coronaviruses.
- Operators of ETPs/STPs attached with discharge from Healthcare Facilities and isolation wards should adopt standard operational practices, practice basic hygiene precautions, and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) prescribed for operation of STPs. PPEs should include Goggles, face mask, liquid repellent coveralls, waterproof gloves and Rubber boots.
- During the period of COVID-19 pandemic, utilization of treated wastewater in utilities within HCFs may be avoided.”

[⁺⁺ inserted in Rev. 2 of guidelines dated 18/04/2020] ”

9. There appears to be need for further revision of the guidelines to cover all aspects covering not merely institutions but also individual households and dealing with situations where scientific disposal facilities like incinerators are not available and any unmindful deep burial without adequate safeguards can adversely affect the ground water and pose danger to health and safety of people.

Disposal of COVID-19 waste in general bins so as to be part of municipal waste or unscientific handling sewage and other liquid waste without safeguards can also be hazardous. There is also need to incorporate best practices in the light of further experience and new thoughts emerging from time to time, apart from continued supervision and monitoring, compiling data in an online format, use of electronic /digital manifest system to track and log COVID-19 waste from all

sources, preventing its accidental spillage, analyzing the data for strategic planning and the feedback by creating necessary software, to the extent viable.

There is also need for creating awareness about the precautions and steps to be taken by all handlers and workers as well as citizens, making a model plan, to be adopted locally by the Panchayat, Sub-division, District and State authorities with such further changes as may be necessary in local conditions. Health of all operators has been protected and preventive measures taken. There is need for orientation/training of persons responsible for compliance in Local Bodies and Health department by an online mechanism besides providing them with adequate protective gear. CPCB has to take lead and coordinate with media as well as the concerned Central/State departments.

Let the Chief Secretary of States/UTs by coordinating the activities of State's concerned departments like of Urban Development, Health, Irrigation & Public Health also closely monitor the scientific storage, transport, handling, management and disposal of COVID-19 waste as its unscientific handling poses a grave threat environment and health of people. At the national level, let a high level task team of Ministry of MoEF&CC, Health UD, Jal Shakti, Defence and CPCB supervise the handling and scientific disposal of COVID-19 waste in accordance with the guidelines.

Let the State Departments of Environment and PCBs/PCCs ensure compliance of Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and furnish action take report to CPCB and CPCB take further steps and furnish a consolidated report to this Tribunal of the steps taken and

the ground status as on 31.5.2020. The report may be furnished by 15.06.2020.

List for further consideration on 22.06.2020.

Copies of this order be sent to Chief Secretaries, PCBs/PCCs of all States/UTs, CPCB and Ministries of EF&CC, Health UD, Jal Shakti and Defence.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S.P Wangdi, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

April 23, 2020
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