

**පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක :- 77**

පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය

පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ රජයේ ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සභාගත කරන ලද වාර්තා සම්බන්ධයෙන් ස්ථාවර නියෝග අංක 119 (4) යටතේ ගරු අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ හා ගනු ලබන පියවර පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම.

பாராளுமன்ற வெளியீட்டுத் தொடர் இலக்கம் :- 77

சுற்றாடல் அமைச்சு

பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரசு கணக்குக் குழுவினால் முன் வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியற் கட்டளை இலக்கம் 119 (4) இன் கீழ் கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புக்களும் மற்றும் அது தொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்.

**Parliamentary Series No :- 77**

Ministry of Environment

Submission of observations of Hon. Minister and steps taken with regard to the reports tabled by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of Standing Order No.119(4)

**Presentation of observations and actions taken in relation to reports submitted to Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts - Ministry of Environment**

**Parliamentary Series Number : 77**

	<b>Deficiencies identified by the Committee/ orders given by the Committee</b>	<b>Measures taken by the Institution to rectify the deficiencies/ implementation of recommendations/ current situation</b>
01.	<p>Action Plan on Clinical Waste Management</p> <p>The Committee inquired about the current status of the Action Plan on Clinical Waste Management as per the National Plan on Waste Management enforced from October 01<sup>st</sup> of 2019 and the recommendation given by the Public Accounts Committee dated 25.03.2022, and whether a combined mechanism has been introduced relating to waste management in coordination with all relevant public institutions.</p>	<p>A committee by the Chairmanship of Secretary to the Ministry of Environment has been appointed to monitor proper implementation of the National Policy on Waste Management and the key partnership institutions identified for each waste category in the National Policy act as fellow member institutions of this committee.</p> <p>Accordingly, the said institutions have prepared Action Plans with time frames of Short Term (2023-2024), Middle Term (2025-2026) and Long Term (2027-2030) for the activities performed in compliance to the National Policy for each relevant waste category. The progress relating to implementation of these plans will be presented quarterly to the above mentioned committee.</p> <p>In this case, the lack of financial allocations in the respective government institutions has hindered the successful implementation of the said action plans.</p>
06.	<p>Proper monitoring of waste management</p>	<p>In consultation with the Hazardous Waste and Chemicals Management Unit of the Central Environmental Authority and the Sicily Hanaro Encare institution, a software system (GPS Tracking System) has been established from 01.07.2023 using GPS technology for 09 vehicles of the institution to monitor the transportation of clinical waste. Information relating to transportation of clinical waste from hospitals to the incinerator of</p>




		<p>Sicily Hanaro Encare institution can be acquired by the Central Environmental Authority through that system. The relevant information of three months as stated in the recommendation has been obtained by the Central Environmental Authority.</p> <p>Other information relating to disposal of clinical waste (information on quantity of clinical waste disposed of, compliance with environmental factors of the disposal process etc.) are directly acquired by the Central Environmental Authority through the Sicily Hanaro Encare institution.</p>
08.	Non-standard packaging used to dispose of waste	<p>At the field inspections carried out when Scheduled Waste Management Licences are issued by the Central Environmental Authority, it is monitored whether the relevant hospitals and health institutions segregate clinical waste properly into container covers of the correct color and whether they are disposed under proper secure conditions. Accordingly, it has been observed that the relevant hospitals/ health institutions use yellow color container covers and yellow color boxes with red tape to dispose the clinical waste.</p> <p>According to the regulation stated in the Gazette Paper No. 2034/33 dated 01.09.2017 issued by the Central Environmental Authority, the thickness of polythene used for all the productions should exceed 20 Microns. The relevant hospitals/ health institutions can maintain the standard of those container covers.</p>
09.	Issuance of licences relating to waste management	<p>In addition to the Environmental Safety Licence, it is compulsory to obtain Scheduled Waste Management Licence by the hospitals/ health institutions. As a result, the Central Environmental Authority has already created the relevant awareness required to obtaining of the Scheduled Waste Management Licences.</p> <p>Accordingly, the process of issuing Hazardous Waste</p>



		<p>Management Licences is underway, and licenses are currently being issued to hospitals/health institutions that have met the minimum qualifications.</p>
11.	Establishing a separate institution for waste management	<p>Clinical waste has been identified as one waste category that needs to be managed under Waste Management Policy. Disposal of hospital waste is maintained by three private institutions.</p> <p>Field inspections are conducted annually by the Central Environmental Authority relating to how clinical waste management is carried out according to which the process of Environmental Protection Licences and Scheduled Waste Management Licences are issued. A format has been referred to the Ministry of Health to observe the process relating to this clinical waste management process and the progress of short term, middle term and long term activities that have been identified in relation to above policy are observed quarterly. When public institutions manage waste in collaboration with the private sector, the progress of the private institutions' waste management activities is reported through the relevant public institution.</p>
15.	Disposal of residual waste received from incineration of clinical waste by Local Government Authorities	<p>At the National Monitoring Committee chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and participated by all the representative institutions, implementation of the National Policy on Waste Management is discussed. These facts are especially considered in clinical waste management of health sector.</p> <p>However, there is a problem of some Local Government Authorities not accepting these wastes for disposal. This rejection is due to lack of awareness that the waste disposed from hospitals after treatment get sterilized before handing them</p>



		over to Local Government Authorities for final disposal. Awareness of employees of relevant Local Government Authorities who engage in disposal activities needs to be raised to overcome this situation. Taking into consideration about the existing financial provisions, the relevant awareness raising is being carried out.
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**Dr. Anil Jasinghe**  
 Secretary