



Minutes of the meeting of State Level Committee held on 27.02.2023 at Committee Room, Armsdale Building, H.P. Secretariat Shimla at 11.30 am to review compliance of the Hon'ble NGT order in OA NO. 180/2021 dated 07.01.2022 and 23.01.2023.

The State Level Committee (SLC) constituted under OA No. 180/2021 held its 3rd review meeting on 27.02.2023 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Health) to the Govt. of HP to review compliance of the Hon'ble NGT order in OA NO. 180/2021 dated 07.01.2022 and 23.01.2023. The list of officials attended the meeting is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.

At the outset, Sh. Apoorv Devgan (IAS) Member Secretary, HPSPCB welcomed the Chairperson of the State Level Committee and other members and outlined the background of the case titled *Mukul Kumar V/s State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors.* and directions passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on dated 07.01.2022 and 23.01.2023 in OA NO. 180/2021. The Committee was also apprised that the State Board is facilitating all the stakeholder departments to achieve compliance level as required under the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. Thereafter, the Chief Scientific Officer, HPSPCB made a detailed presentation on the status and management of COVID-19 and Biomedical Waste in the State.

The SLC was apprised that OA No. 180/2021 titled *Mukul Kumar V/s State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.* has been disposed off by the Hon'ble NGT on dated 07.01.2022 with the direction to review the matter periodically atleast for some time till the COVID-19 situation improves. So far matter regarding management of Bio-medical and COVID-19 waste has been reviewed 11 times at the government level [6 times at CS level; 3 times at ACS (EST) level; 2 times at SLC level]. The Committee was further apprised regarding following directions passed by the Hon'ble NGT on dated 23.01.2023 in the above matter.

"17. There are huge gaps in compliance of environmental norms to the detriment of environment and public health. District Magistrates have to provide leadership on the subject at grassroot level. We are not sure whether the subject is part of training imparted in academies for probationers and in-house officers such as LBS National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, IIPA, New Delhi and other State Academies. It may be desirable that need for such training is considered. National Judicial Academy at Bhopal has included the subject as part of its training to judicial officers. On that pattern, with such further modifications as found necessary, syllabus of Administrative Training Institutes may need to include the subject. We request the Secretary, DoPT, GoI and Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to consider this aspect in coordination with the Directors of the Academies in question. Such training programs may include not only academic discussion but also undertaking field visits to places where successful environmental compliance models exist. Infact such training may be required in Police Academies/Public Prosecutors also. In the first instance, training may be imparted to all existing District Magistrates and thereafter to others who may have the potential to work as District Magistrates or other positions where they may have to deal with such issues.

18. Let the Secretary, DoPT, GoI and Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs consider the issue and file their respective action taken reports with the Tribunal within two months by e-mail". The matter is listed on 24.04.2023.

The Member Secretary apprised the Chairperson that the State Board has taken some initiatives by conducting a "Certificate Course on Environmental Management and Pollution Control" for the District/Sub Divisional/Block level administrative/executive functionaries of the State Government such as ADC/ADM/AC to DC/SDM/BDO/Commissioners, Executive Officers, Secretary, and other personnel of ULBs and UDD for better coordination and effective implementation of pollution control/ environment laws at ground level. Two such courses have been conducted so far on 29-30 July, 2022 at HIPA Shimla and on 08-09 September, 2022 at CORD, Dharamshala.

Further, the recent orders of Hon'ble NGT has also been intimated to the State Govt and the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of HP has been requested to direct the concerned Administrative Departments and Administrative Training Institutes, Police/Judicial Academies of the State to include environmental laws, rules and related aspects during the training provided to their trainee officers, so as to comply with the NGT orders. It has also been requested to make it mandatory for all IAS officers (of pay Level 11 and below), HPAS officers (eligible to be posted in district administrations postings), BDOs and EOs, Secretary, and other personnel of ULBs to undertake the "Certificate Course on Environmental Management and Pollution Control" conducted by the State Board periodically within the next two years.

Action Taken Report on the directions passed in the second review meeting of the State Level Committee held on 20.08.2022 was presented before the Committee. The chairperson was apprised that District Level Action Plans for non-complying institutions have been prepared by the stakeholder departments in consultation with the State Board along with timelines. The Action Plans are being reviewed by the respective Deputy Commissioners involving all stakeholders on monthly basis during the review of the District Environment Plan. Further, the State Board has intimated the agencies involved in planning & development of the physical infrastructure of the public HCFs (PWD, HIMUDA, BSNL & HPGIC) for setting-up of liquid waste treatment systems (separate collection & pre-treatment requirement of chemical liquid waste +sewage treatment) and bio-medical waste captive disposal facility in the new HCFs at the planning/construction stage.

The improvement in compliance status as on 05-03-2022, 20-08-2022 and 25.02.2023 are detailed as below:

Compliance Status	As on 05-03-2022	As on 20-08-2022	As on 27.02.2023
	(1st Review by SLC)	(2nd Review by SLC)	(3rd Review by SLC)
Inventory	9062	9115	9206
Authorization	7882 (87 %)	8383 (92 %)	8981 (97.6%)
Non-complying HCFs	1180 (13 %)	732 (8%)	225 (2.4%)

The Chief Scientific Officer further apprised that the guidelines prescribed for the management of COVID-19 waste under the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 are effectively being enforced in the State. There is no gap in waste generation, treatment and disposal. Presently about 2 to 3 kg of COVID-19 waste generation is being reported per day mainly by the testing labs and status thereof is being updated daily on Central Tracking system. With regard to management of biomedical waste, the State has an inventory of 9206 health care institutions, which are being regulated under the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. The State Board has Authorized 4 Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (CBWTFs) established at Solan, Una, Kangra and Bilaspur districts, with installed incineration capacity of 9.6 MT/day, wherein about 95% of the waste generated

by the HCFs across the State is being disposed off. To ensure the compliance of various provisions of Rules, the State Board has notified the inspection and sampling schedule varies from monthly to yearly based upon bed capacity of the HCFs. The State Board has conducted 4646 no. of inspections of the HCFs/CBWTFs since 01-04-2022 and issued 62 directions for non-compliance. Out of 9206 HCFs in the State 225 are non-complying HCFs, out of which 107 are Allopathic Institutions, 53 are Veterinary Institutions, 28 are Ayurvedic Institutions and 37 are private units, which need to set-up requisite systems for management of bio-medical/ liquid waste immediately and in case non-compliance persist beyond 31.03.2023 (timeline permitted by the SLAC) the State Board would be constrained to initiate penal action as per provisions of law.

Dr. Sunite Ganju, Consultant representing the Department of Health Services, GoHP informed that STPs are being established at 71 Allopathic hospitals, which would soon obtain authorization from the State Board. The Joint Director, Animal Husbandry apprised that the remaining unauthorized HCFs of the Department of Animal Husbandry are mainly situated in Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti Districts, wherein, funds have been released to HCFs to develop captive bio-medical waste disposal facilities (deep burial pits), before April, 2023 and so that mandatory statutory permissions are obtained from the State Board before 31st April 2023. Representative of the Department of Ayurveda apprised that although the State government has made token budgetary provision for installation of STPs, however, proposal for adequate funds as per actual requirement thereof are still pending at the government level.

Directions:

- All the Stakeholder departments to ensure that non-complying HCFs should obtain authorizations from the State Pollution Control Board before 31.03.2023 after complying with all the provisions of the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Health Department shall provide the list of non-complying more than 10 beds capacity Allopathic HCFs immediately to the office of Secretary (Health) Govt of H.P., so that decision regarding restricting bed capacity of these institutions based upon actual IPD is taken accordingly.
- The Department of Ayurveda to pursue the matter with the State Govt. for the release of funds, so that requisite liquid waste treatment systems are put in place before the extended timeline i.e. 31.03.2023 and shall obtain authorization from the State Board immediately thereafter.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry shall develop captive waste disposal facilities (deep burial pits) in the remaining non-complying institution of the District Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti immediately after the winter season and to obtain authorization from the State Board before 31-04-2023.
- All the Departments shall ensure the handling and disposal of COVID-19 waste as per the guidelines prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Directions also need to be issued from the Secretary (Health) to the Public Works Department and other infrastructure development agencies to ensure developing of physical infrastructure for setting-up of liquid waste treatment systems and management of bio-medical waste as per provisions of the Rules at the planning stage itself.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**Approved by
M. Sudha Devi
Secretary (Health) to the Govt. of HP**

Copy to the following for information and necessary action please:

1. The Principal Secretary (Urban Development) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Shimla 171001.
2. The Secretary (Health) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla -171002.
3. The Secretary (Ayurveda) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla -171002.
4. The Secretary (Animal Husbandry) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla -171002.
5. The Director (Health Services) Block No 5, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla, H.P. 171009.
The Director
6. The Director (Medical Education & Research) Block No 18 B, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla, H.P. 171009.
7. The Director (Ayurveda) Block No 26, SDA Complex Kasumpti, Shimla -171009, H.P.
8. The Director (Animal Husbandry) Pashudhan Bhawan, Boileuganj, Shimla- 171 005 (HP).
9. The Director (Environment, Science & Technology) Himachal Pradesh, Shimla- 171001.
10. The Director (State Disaster Management Authority) H.P. Secretariat Shimla 171002.
11. The Director (Dental Health Services) Kasumpati, Himachal Pradesh.
12. The Director (Urban Development) Talland Shimla H.P
13. The Commissioner, MC Shimla.
14. Dr. Sunite Ganju, Consultant O/o the Director of Health Service, SDA Complex, Kasumpati-9
15. The President, IMA-HP, Sr. MO Civil Hospital Palampur Distt. Kangra.
16. Sh. Sukhdev Singh Masand, VPO Dhoran, Tehsil Palampur Distt. Kangra.
17. The Sr. Law Officer, HPSPCB, Phase-III, New Shimla -171009.

Apoorv Devgan, IAS
Member Secretary

हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार

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Attendance Sheet of the review meeting held on 27.02.2023 at 11.30 AM at HP Secretariat, HP Shimla under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Health) to the Govt. of HP in compliance of the directions of Hon'ble NGT passed on dated 07.01.2022 and 23.01.2023 in OA No. 180/2021 regarding management of Biomedical and Covid-19 waste.

S. No	Name & Designation	Name of the Department	Signature	Contact Number	E-mail Id
1.	Dr. Sunita A. Gupta	BMS		94180-77308	Sunita2022@gmail.com
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4.	Dr. AJAY Kumar (Water sector Expert)	UD, Shimla		8439218284	drajaydude@gmail.com
5.	Namita Sharma Environment Officer	Deptt. of Env. S & T, Shimla		9418356068	namita.dest@gmail.com
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