

Srishti Medical Waste Update
CAMPAIGN FOR PROPER MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

August 97

The Bio- Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1996 prepared by Government of India after incorporating the suggestions and objections received in response to the draft rules notified earlier will be released shortly. Srishti hopes that the release of these rules will help standardize the problems associated with waste management as the rules not only give lay down procedures for disinfection, treatment and disposal of bio-medical waste but is waste specific. Also the role of incineration has been relegated to one of the options for a portion of the waste and credence given to known alternative disposal methods. We hope the proposed standards will incorporate all NGO/Medical community recommendations

Another piece of good news is that one of the government hospitals in Delhi has installed a shredder for its plastic waste. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital has recently set up a shredder to handle the plastic and rubber waste medical. Shredding is a vital step in waste volume reduction and in discouraging reuse of waste. It is also a necessary process for proper decontamination.

Srishti in an effort to implement the existing CPCB guidelines has worked with a small hospital in setting up a pilot waste management system. The model system is now in operation. Srishti is bringing out a Medical Waste Management manual. A one day seminar on Medical Waste Management is being planned with the release of the manual. If you are interested in the event and in the manual please do write to us.

Another hospital (an Eye Hospital with about 25 beds) has also taken up the initiative in setting up a waste management system on lines with the CPCB guidelines. Srishti is helping this hospital too.

It is very necessary that all hospitals come out and improve their waste management practises.

Srishti is co-ordinating with the Multinational Resource Centre to bring a Medical Waste Management Expert from the US to interact with those concerned about the waste management practises in India. Srishti is co-ordinating his tour in Delhi, while other groups are doing so in Bombay /Calcutta. The expert will arrive in India and commence with Delhi from the 23rd of October. Thereon he will proceed to other centres Seminars and meetings with various bodies and people are being proposed. Besides these interactions, a hospital willing to make changes in its waste management practises will be identified. The changes will be suggested after a detailed survey undertaken by the Waste Expert. Once the changes are in place this hospital will become a Nodal Point for all hospitals keen on implementing waste management. Also this scheme will require a dedicated person from within the hospital who will co-ordinate all waste management activities within the hospital and with other hospitals and Srishti. He may not be able to go beyond the three metros, but we will make his experience available to all.

If you are interested in these interactions or know of any one interested in this field please do let us know. It is important that more people, organisations and hospitals understand the very real concerns about medical waste.

For further information on this subject you could contact - Ravi Agarwal, Megha Kela or Samir Nazareth at the address given above