



**SRISHTI**

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**Srishti Medical Waste Update**  
**CAMPAIGN FOR PROPER MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL**  
**DECEMBER 98**

***Update***

Srishti along with the Central Pollution Board and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee organised a one day seminar on Medical Waste Management post Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1998, jointly sponsored by DPCC and the USIS. The seminar was conceived with the idea of focusing on directions required on waste management initiatives keeping the Biomedical waste Rules in mind. To this end we invited officials from the government, both regulatory and implementing organisations, representatives from hospitals who have done pioneering work in hospital waste management, doctors associations and NGO's. The seminar was divided in- Policy, Management and Technology Issues, Case Presentations and finally Proactive Approaches and Capacity Building sessions.

The Seminar was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests Shri Suresh Prabhu. In his speech Shri Prabhu emphasised the need for reducing the administrative gap and channelling funds to hospitals interested in implementing waste management schemes. He also mentioned that the Ministry would put forward a proposal for national banks to provide funds for such endeavours. Shri Prabhu also added the need for municipal corporations to accept treated waste and the inclusion of hospital waste management in the National Health Policy

The Main Recommendations that came out from the seminar included (for complete details contact us)

1. Need for more funds for the healthcare sector for medical waste.
2. Option of privatisation for collection and treatment of medical waste through centralised and zonal facilities.
3. Inclusion of hospital waste management in the National Health Policy.
4. Need for operating standards for waste management equipment through Bureau of Indian Standards
5. The need to make the Biomedical Waste Rules widely known and to implement training and awareness programmes.
6. Need to involve municipalities for centralised facilities as well as facilitate inter-sector participation.

Srishti has been working in a three hundred bedded hospital. We have completed all training modules and the immediate purchasing of equipment. The next step is installation and a quick refresher course; this would be completed by the middle of this month.

***Future events***

In the next year Srishti hopes to organise a seminar with international experts. Together with this, Srishti would like to visit a few cities which would be immediately affected by



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the Bio-Medical Waste Rules, to provide inputs, if desired, to NGO's and others working in this field.

### ***Plan for newsletter***

Srishti would like to convert the current Update into a bi-monthly with articles, from readers, plus events occurring in different areas of the country on the issue of medical waste. The Newsletter would also include questions from readers on this issue plus an incinerator update. We would like to have your comments on this before we finalise the structure of the Newsletter.

### ***About MAN***

The Medical Waste Action Network (MAN) is an effort to bring together groups from all over the country on a single platform to address the issues of medical waste management. Through this group we hope to generate country wide data on medical waste, technology interventions and provide quick and effective solutions.

Through MAN we also wish to form an effectual coalition which will voice the issue at the national level and will be part of all decisions which would affect medical waste management. Medical Waste Action Network would also identify Nodal Groups in various states which would act as local resources and provide information to those who need it.

- We would like to know if you would like to be part of this group. Please send us written replies/confirmations via post or email.
- We would like to know what is happening in areas where you are working so that we could add it to our newsletter which will be published in February. Also, articles on the subject of medical waste management are welcome. The articles should not be more than 400 words. We would also like to know whether there are any incinerator manufacturers targeting hospitals in your city; please send us their address and the details of the incinerator being sold. The news letter will be a success only if we get information from you.
- We look forward to your active participation in this project.

### **INCINERATOR NEWS**

There is major work to be done in Gujarat and UP. In a recent article in the Ahmedabad edition of the Indian Express a reporter writes that even after the Rules have been passed the Gujarat government does not know whether it should establish a new authority or put the responsibility for implementation on some already existing department. The article further adds that the Environment and Forests Department wanted to hand over the responsibility of enforcing the Rules to the Health Department. A file proposing this has been placed before TCA Rangadurai the addn'l chief secretary (Environment and Forests). A source told Srishti that the UP government plans to install over 50 incinerators. In Kanpur reliable sources tell us that the commissioner has planned an incinerator for municipal waste and incinerators for all hospitals. As we know, on-site incinerators are a



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health hazard, as well as that they are not operated as per specifications. Only centralised facilities with a mixture of technologies should be installed, while on-site non-burn technology can be used.

Kerala has plans in the offing to install an incinerator in each district.

- Will NGO's in these areas please look up this issue and keep us upto date. Readers should write to the people listed below expressing their reservations on the move to install incinerators and suggesting that hospitals and government look at segregation, training and alternative technologies as an answer.
- Please send us a copy of your letters to these people

**Addresses**

Central	Kerala	UP	Gujarat
Chairman; Central Pollution Control Board; Parivesh Bhavan; East Arjun Nagar; Delhi	Chairman; Kerala State Pollution Control Board; Plamoodu Junction; Pattom Palace; Kerala Tiruvanthapuram; 695004	Commissioner; Kanpur Nagar Mahapalika; Kanpur; UP 208001	Chairman; Gujarat State Pollution Control Board; Sector 10A; Gandhi Nagar - 382043
Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests; Paryavaran Bhavan; CGO Complex; Lodhi Road; N Delhi	Secretary; Dept of Environment and Forests; Government of Kerala	Chairman; UP State Pollution Control Board; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Flr; PICUP Bhawan; Vibhuti Khand; Gomti Nagar; Lucknow 226010	Secretary; Dept of Environment and Forests; Government of Gujarat. Gandinagar. Gujarat
	Special Secretary;; Dept of Local Administration; Government of Kerala; Thiruvanthapuram 695014	Principal Secretary; Urban Development Department; Govt of UP; Vikas Bhavan Lucknow; 226003	Principal Sec; Dept of Urban development and Urban Housing; Govt of Gujarat; Sachivalaya Gandhinagar 382010

**Upcoming Events** The Baroda Management Association is organising a National Conference on Medical Waste Management between 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> February 1999. *For details contact Dr S.B Saxena and Dr J R Kamath at Baroda Management Association, ISuflam Apts, 10 Haribhakti Colony, Race Course, Baroda -390007. Fax (0265) 332919 # (0265) 324135, 330632*