

Minutes of the meeting of the State Advisory Committee under Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules 2016 amended 2020 held under the chairmanship of Ms M. Sudha Devi, Secretary (Health), Government of Himachal Pradesh, on 30/01/2023 at 11:00 AM at Committee Hall Armsdale Building, HP Secretariat

The following officers/officials attended the meeting:

1. Dr Gopal Beri, Director Health Services, H.P
2. Dr Ambika Chauhan, Joint Director Health Services, HP
3. Mr Manoj Chauhan, Principal Scientific Officer, HPPCB
4. Dr. Sunite A Ganju, State Nodal Officer BWM O/o DHS & Professor and HOD, Microbiology, SLBSGCH, Nerchowk, Mandi
5. Dr Munish Kumar Batta, Joint. Director, Animal Husbandry, H.P
6. Dr Dr Vishal Sharma, Addl Director, Director Medical Education, Shimla
7. Dr Ajay Kumar, Water Sector Expert, Directorate of Urban Development, Shimla
8. Dr. DP Singh, Project Coordinator, M.C. Shimla.
9. Dr Mahesh Jaswal, OSD Director Health and Safety regulations, HP
10. Shri HR Thakur, (CEO) CBMWTF operator Enviro Engineers Una.
11. Shri Hemant Bhardwaj ,CBMWTF operator, Enviro engineers, Shimla
12. Shri Kishore Thakur,(General Manager) Enviro Engineers(CBMWTF) Solan
13. Mr Pradeep Kumar CBMWTF operator Enviro engineers , Shimla
14. Mr Meena Sharma, Sr Asst Med V, H&FW O/o DHS

With the kind permission of the Chair, the meeting began with a welcome note by Dr Gopal Beri, Director Health Services. The Director Health Services, informed the house that this is the seventh meeting of the State Level Advisory Committee for management and handling of Biomedical waste and held as per the rules of BMW rules 2016 and every six months the meeting is to be held to advise and review the Biomedical Waste Management rules 2016.

The Chair Ms M. Sudha Devi stressed upon the need of effective implementation of the Bio Medical Waste Management Rules 2016 in the State of Himachal Pradesh and informed that the Hon'ble

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National Green Tribunal is closely monitoring the same besides being a critical health issue. The timelines should be met as given in the action plan submitted to the HPPCB. The Chair also directed that all necessary steps should be taken proactively to get all the remaining unauthorized health care facilities authorized and resubmit the applications after removal of objections to HPPCB for authorization.

In this 7th meeting the agenda item of the sixth meeting were reconfirmed and the new agenda items were drawn from the basis of inputs given by the various stake holders and district monitoring committee BMWM, department of Health.

The Chair, Secretary (Health) was informed regarding the agenda in last meeting and the action taken report was presented in the form of a presentation and the status of compliance to NGT order no: O.A No. 710/2017 and 72/2020.

Dr. Sunite A Ganju, Consultant cum State Nodal Officer Biomedical Waste Management O/o DHS, & Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology presented before the house the updated status of implementation of the Biomedical Waste Management in the state of Himachal Pradesh and progress done by the Department of Health and Family under Bio Medical Waste and all the agenda items through a presentation. A total of 2862 HCFs have been authorized out of 2769 HCFs (95%) with district Mandi having 97.5% authorizations. It was also informed to the house that the status of authorization is higher than the national average.

SNo	Top three performing Districts (>95%)			Rank
	District	Authorizations		
1.	Mandi	(420/442)	97.5%	1
2.	Sirmaur	(198/205)	96.5%	2
3.	Bilaspur	(164/170)	96.4%	3

All the Agenda items were discussed one by one and following decisions were taken.

1. Agenda item 1: Status of authorizations of Allopathic Health care facilities

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The Chair reviewed the category wise authorization status with respect to applications received, authorization granted, cases under process and cases rejected. The Committee was appraised by Dr. Sunite A Ganju, the applications for authorization are to be submitted online now and the offline mode has been discontinued now. The HPPCB has already imparted training in the districts with regards to online mode of applications. The Chair directed that all the CMOs should address the concerns for the cases that have been rejected and resubmit to the respective officers of the Pollution Control Board (PCB) for authorizations. At present 23 applications are in process for authorizations. The recent inventory of HCFs should be tallied with the respective regional heads (PCB) so that there is no mismatch. The chair was informed that all CMOs and MSs were directed to maintain a meticulous record and file Annual Reports of BMW on the due date, verified and signed by BMO's/CMO's/MSs before submission so that there is no mismatch with categorization and compilation of the Biomedical Waste generated waste. The annual report should be submitted in time. The recent updated status of the HCFs inventory both hard and soft copy hard copy will be shared with the state Pollution control board.

(Action by: DHS, CMOs, MSs, Regional Laboratories PCB)

2. Agenda item 2: Status of BMWM in Hard and tribal Districts:-

Dr. Sunite A Ganju appraised the Chair in detail about the Status update of captive treatment disposal (deep burial) being adopted in the Allopathic Health Care Facilities of District Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti as there is no access of any Common Bio Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBTWF) Operator to these Districts. District Kinnaur has made a remarkable improvement with 90% authorizations. And Lahaul spiti has also improved with 80.3% authorizations. The funds have been disbursed to L&S for construction of deep burial pits are being constructed.

(Action by: CMO L&S and HPPCB)

3. Agenda item 3: Status of compliance of NGT order No OA 72/2020

The Committee was informed that the Hon'ble NGT passed operative orders on dated 23-04-2020 for disposal of COVID-19 waste and need to incorporate best practices in the light of further experience and new thoughts emerging from time to time with continued supervision and monitoring and compiling data in an online format. On 20-07-2020 further directions were issued for proper segregation of waste so as to lessen the burden the CBMWTF and disposal by deep burial in places

where CBMWTFs not available. All the orders were strictly followed and again reviewed by the Hon'ble NGT and the Order (72/2020) dated 23-04-2020 was disposed on 18-01-2021. However regular review is to be done as per the directions under the chairmanship of the Secretary Health.

4. Agenda item 4: BMW charges and COVID Waste Charges –De-notification

The chair was informed that the rates for lifting BMW charges were discussed and approved in the 6th state level advisory committee meeting. Accordingly the Government notified the charges payable to the CBMWTF for collection, transport and handling the waste in a scientific manner for all categories of HCFs for Bio-Medical waste vide letter no HFW-A-A(3)2/2020 dated 26/2/2022. However, the CBMWTF operators have submitted applications for revision of rates as the lifting of BMW comes under preview of GST now. Also as per the notification the review is to be done yearly from the financial year 2023-2024. The chair directed to do the same as per the notification early in 2023.

The committee was also informed that disposal and transportation charges were fixed by the Govt. for COVID waste Notified by Govt. vide letter no HFW-A-A(3)2/2020 dated 26/9/2020 (@Rs 43 per*kg for disposal and 24 per km for transportation to be paid through COVID fund has been de-notified vide letter no HFW-A(3)2/2022-2240 dated 4/10/2022. This is as per the action taken report for the 6th SLAC.

(Action by: DHS)

5. Agenda item 5: Status of Liquid waste disinfection treatment system

The chair was informed that Liquid waste disinfection treatment system units have been positioned and functional at HCFs as reported by the CMOs. Any complaints regarding non-functioning may be directly handled by the CMOs, MSs.

(Action by: CMO, MSs)

6. Agenda item 6. Compliance Under Hon'ble NGT order no: OA No 138 and 139 Stench grips Mansa river and 673/2018, OA no 606/2018.)

The chair was informed that a health study and camps were being held in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT orders. Study pattern of water air borne diseases and to understand its

epidemiological relationship to environmental pollution factors in industrial areas of Himachal Pradesh. (Under hon'ble NGT order no: OA No 138 and 139 Stench grips Mansa River and 673/2018, OA no 606/2018). The health camps have been have been restarted from June 2022.

7. Agenda item 7: Lifting of BMW by CBMTF operators in remote rural areas:

The chair directed that the Bio-medical waste facility operators should look into modalities to lift BMW from the remote areas too. The HP PCB has also given directions to the CBMWTF operators to work out a modality for lifting the Bio Medical Waste from the tribal regions. The CBMWTF operators with respective CMO Kinnaur and CMO L& S should submit a plan with for approval from HPPCB.

(Action by: DHS ; HPPCB; CBMTF; CMO Kinaur, CMO L&S)

8. Agenda item 8: Status of Sewerage Treatment Plant and Monitoring of functionality of STPs:

The status of the present STPs was presented and the chair was apprised that there is has been an additional demand for STPs. However to rationalize the use of STPs 58 institutions have sought exemption where the functioning bed strength and IPD/OPD load is less from the HPPCB. The Pr Scientific Officer informed the house that the complete case has been forwarded to the CPCB for their review. The chair directed to expedite the matter for rationalization of the STPs and that monitoring and maintenance of functional STPs should be accorded high priority and carried out strictly. An online maintenance system may be developed to monitor the various parameters of the discharge.

(Action by: HPPCB, DHS, CMOs/ Sr.MS, Regional Pollution Control Board Officers)

9. Agenda item 9: Training on BMWM at state level.

The Chair approved to hold the state level training and the award given to the top three performing districts. The house was informed that Health Department is conducting regular meetings and in house trainings as per the BMWM rules 2016.

10. Agenda item 10: Budget additionality

The chair was informed that additional budget was required under SOE-33 for machinery and equipment to operationalize the remaining STPs and the case has been sent to the Govt. for approval.

(Action by: DHS)

11. Agenda item 11: Status of allied departments

The status of allied departments was also presented. The Chair directed to prioritize for authorizations on the remaining unauthorized facilities.

12. Agenda item 12: Bar coding Status;

The committee members were informed that bar-coding is to be done in all hospitals with more than 30 beds under the BMWM rules 2016. At present the bar-coding is done on the BMW bags lifted by the CBMWTF operator. However there is a need that the hospital also develops internal bar-coding mechanism. The chair directed that the Medical Colleges and Zonal hospitals to ensure bar-coding in the first phase.

(Action by: MS Medical College, MS Zonal Hospitals)

13. Agenda item 13: Development of BMWM website

The committee members were informed that as per BMWM rules 2016 a BMWM website is mandatory and requires funds. The chair directed that in the first phase the Medical Colleges and Zonal hospitals to ensure that a link is created in the already existing website for uploading the necessary information.

(Action by: MS Medical College, MS Zonal Hospitals)

14. Agenda item 14: Any other items with permission of the chair

The disposal of sanitary napkins was discussed. The house was informed that the disposal of sanitary napkins fall under Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. According to the provision of 3(46) of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, sanitary waste is categorized as 'solid waste' and Government of India through CPCB has framed the guidelines on sanitary waste management to ensure proper disposal of sanitary waste.

The Chair in her concluding remarks appreciated the work by the Department of Health and Family welfare and desired that the Bio Medical Rules, 2016, amended Rules, 2018,2020 should be followed in letter and spirit and focus on the remaining ^{3%} unauthorized HCFs. ^{by 31st March.} The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

M. Sudha Devi

Ms. M. Sudha Devi
Secretary (Health), Government of H.P
Chairman State Advisory Committee BMW -2016