

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2022

**AUDIT REPORT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT IN INDIAN RAILWAYS PRESENTED**

Audit Report No 16 of 2022 of Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Union Government (Railways) on “Waste Management in Indian Railways” was tabled in Parliament here today.

This report presents the results of the audit on “Waste Management in Indian Railways” and covers aspects in managing waste at stations, coaching depots, maintenance and Production units, bio-medical waste generated in hospitals. The Report also covers adherence to the specific directives of National Green Tribunal (NGT).

**Major Audit findings** are as follows:-

**Role and responsibility for managing waste and fund allocation therefor**

There is no single body/agency in Indian Railways solely responsible for handling waste management related issues in IR. Also, there was no system of dedicated fund allocation specifically for waste management.

(Para 1.2 - Page 2 and Para 2.1.1- Page 6)

**Compliance on the directives of statutory bodies**

- Despite assurance to PAC for setting up Engineering and Health Management directorate at the zonal and at the divisional level, compliance by IR was partial. Accountable entities at the railway stations, divisions and at the zonal level were not constituted in 38.60 *per cent* of the stations test checked. In 59 stations out of 109 selected for audit, Directives of NGT for obtaining Consent to Establish (CTEs) from related State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) were not complied with (As of 31 July 2021).

(Para 2.1 –Page 5, Para 2.2-Page and Para 2.4 –Page 9)

- IR failed to fully comply with directives of the NGT for implementing 24 Verifiable Indicators for monitoring of waste management at 36 major stations. In 65 other major stations selected, the progress on implementation of verifiable indicators was not encouraging.

(Para 2.5 –Page 10 and Para 2.6 -Page 12)

**Managing waste collected from pantry cars and trains with OBHS**

Segregated waste collected from the Pantry cars and trains with On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) was not unloaded in secured bags in 45 per cent test checked stations . In 86 per cent test checked stations, waste collected from the Pantry cars or OBHS trains was not dumped in separate assigned dustbins.

### **Deficient system in managing plastic and solid waste**

- In 65 per cent test checked stations and 87 per cent test checked coaching depots IR did not assess the quantum of plastic waste generated. Besides, IR could not ensure installation of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines (PBCMs) as planned and '*plastic only Bin*' were not provided in only 90 stations and 25 coaching depots.

(Para 2.10-Page 16)

- The basic condition of segregating bio-degradable and non bio-gradable waste was not ensured. Facilities for management of solid waste such as wet waste processing, material recovery facility, provision of composting plant, waste segregation and recycling centres were not provided at 70 per cent of the stations and 90 per cent of coaching yards selected for audit.

(Para 2.11.2-Page 20)

### **Managing industrial and hazardous waste**

Non-compliance of the rules prescribed for storage and labelling of hazardous waste in 102 units (out of 131 selected) remained a potential threat for the environment and people engaged in these units.

(Para 3.5-Page 25)

### **Progress on issues relating to managing waste water**

Effluent Treatment Plants/ Sewage Treatment Plants (ETP/STPs), though planned for commissioning in 19 major coaching depots and 40 workshops, were not commissioned as of March 2020. Slow progress in providing water recycling plant and automatic coach washing plant defeated the objectives envisaged in the Indian Railways Water Policy, 2017.

(Para 4.1-Page 29, Para 4.3 -Page 31 and Para 4.4-Page 32)

### **Deficient Bio-Medical waste management system**

IR failed to ensure provision of secured room with reference to Bio-Medical waste Rules for storage of bio-medical waste in 64 per cent test checked hospitals. Further, in the absence of requisite equipment for treating bio-medical waste, 15 hospitals managed waste disposal departmentally endangering safety of public health

(Para 5.3 Page 36 and Para 5.11-Page 42)