

Executive Summary

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Waste Management in urban areas has emerged as one of the biggest challenges that our country faces today. The situation is aggravated by rapid urbanisation. Poor waste management not only causes multiple environmental problems such as emission of greenhouse gases, water and soil pollution but also causes many vector and water-borne diseases. Additionally, there are social consequences of improper waste management, especially for the workers engaged in and directly exposed to improperly managed waste. Since improper waste management has an adverse impact on the environment as well as on the health of people, proper waste management is a major area that needs to be addressed effectively.

The performance audit was conducted covering the period from 2016-17 to 2020-21, updated upto 2021-22 to assess whether (i) the strategy and planning of waste management was commensurate with the generated waste and conforming with the prevailing legal framework, (ii) the operation and maintenance of waste management facilities by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were financially sustainable, (iii) the municipal tasks performed for waste management were efficient and effective and (iv) the monitoring mechanism in waste management was adequate and effective. It involved examination of records in Urban Development Department, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Director, Swachh Maharashtra Mission, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and 45 test-checked ULBs.

Government Resolutions and orders were issued for segregation of waste at source, banning sale and use of single-use plastic and levy of fines for littering. Government, however, did not prepare a policy and solid waste management strategy as envisaged in the Solid Waste Management Rules. While Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for a period of five years (short-term), covering issues such as collection, transportation and processing/disposal of waste, were prepared by all the test-checked ULBs, long-term plans in DPRs were framed in 30 test-checked ULBs. There were deficiencies in the preparation of detailed project reports by the ULBs such as incorrect estimation of waste generation and processing capacity planned in the DPRs. 12 test-checked ULBs did not levy user charges on solid waste management services. 33 test-checked ULBs did not achieve the target of 90 per cent collection efficiency of waste management charges fixed by the Government of India in the Service Level Benchmarks.

Audit noticed that 12 test-checked ULBs did not install weighbridges and therefore, measured the quantity of waste on estimation basis or on the basis of volumetric capacity of vehicles engaged for collection of waste. 29 test-checked ULBs did not achieve the service level benchmark for household coverage for collection of waste. Self Help Groups of waste pickers were not formed in 28 test-checked ULBs. Waste segregation was 100 per cent in 21 test-checked ULBs. While 23 test-checked ULBs failed to achieve service level benchmark of 100 per cent segregation of waste at source, one ULB did not segregate at all. During 2021-22, in 24 test-checked ULBs, e-waste was collected mixed with municipal solid waste. 34 test-checked ULBs were collecting bio-medical waste

generated by households mixed with municipal solid waste during 2021-22. During 2016-17 to 2021-22, 38 per cent of the total waste collected remained unprocessed. 98 per cent of construction and demolition waste generated in ULBs during 2018-19 to 2021-22 remained unprocessed. Material recovery facilities/secondary storage facilities were not set up in 16 test-checked ULBs. 26 test-checked ULBs did not develop sanitary landfills. Due to non-development of sanitary landfill 33.88 lakh MT waste generated by 26 ULBs was dumped in open dump site during 2016-17 to 2021-22. 13 test-checked ULBs did not plan for bio-mining and bio-remediation or scientific capping of open dump sites. A significant number of ULBs did not distribute various items of personal protection equipment kits to workers involving in the management of solid waste, thereby exposing them to various kinds of infectious and airborne diseases. However, the number of ULBs not distributing PPE kits showed a decreasing trend in 2021-22 as compared from last year.

During 2016-17 to 2019-20, 31 out of 180 annual reports related to municipal solid waste were not submitted to MPCB by 45 test-checked ULBs. None of the test-checked ULBs submitted annual reports under the Plastic Waste Management Rules to Urban Development Department. The State Level Advisory Committee constituted for reviewing matters related to the implementation of Rules, State Policy and Strategy under the SWM Rules, did not have 12 out of 22 members in the Committee.

This report also highlights the good practices adopted by Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation and Malkapur Municipal Council. An initiative by Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation involving collection of old shoes/saree/waste material etc. for creation of artefacts, eco-friendly bags and refurbishment of old shoes helped in reducing waste reaching landfill. Malkapur Municipal Council used segregated hotel wet waste for electricity generation through a biogas plant which resulted in zero external energy consumption for operating the compost plant.

Recommendations:

- 1. The Government may prepare a comprehensive policy and strategy for solid waste management focusing on minimising the generation of waste.***
- 2. The Government may direct ULBs to prepare holistic detailed project report for solid waste management.***
- 3. The Government may direct ULBs to levy user charges on solid waste management services.***
- 4. The Government may review the poor performance of the ULBs in collecting the solid waste management charges and steps for its improvement.***

5. *The Government may ensure that ULBs install weighbridges for weighing of solid waste.*
6. *The Government may direct the ULBs to take proactive steps for the formation of Self-Help Groups of waste pickers and encourage their involvement in solid waste management.*
7. *The Government may direct ULBs to give greater emphasis on segregation of waste by means of publicity and awareness campaigns and encourage segregation of waste at source. Also, arrangement with Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility may be ensured for proper disposal of collected bio-medical waste.*
8. *The Government may direct the ULBs to create and augment processing facilities for processing of waste and set up material recovery/secondary storage facilities in a time-bound manner.*
9. *The Government may direct ULBs to develop sanitary landfills for the scientific disposal of waste.*
10. *ULBs may ensure that Personal Protection Equipment are provided and used by workers involved in handling waste.*
11. *The Government may ensure that the State Level Advisory Committee constituted under the Solid Waste Management Rules is adequately represented as prescribed in the Rules.*

