Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the annual general meeting of industry body ASSOCHAM. Sources said that the theme for this event is 'New India aspiring for a $5-trillion economy'. Modi’s address will be followed by a debate about the government’s corporate engagement and the allegations regarding this issue in some quarters.
India Inc Seeks Steps to Stimulate Consumption, Revive Investment

PRE-BUDGET MEET WITH FM

Industry titans want corporate tax to be cut to 15% in 3 years, easing of regulatory hurdles and I-T cut

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India Inc has made a strong pitch for converging corporate tax rate to 15% over three years, ease of doing business and improving regulatory environment to safeguard investment as part of its budget wish list.

At a pre-budget meeting with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, industry captains sought measures to stimulate consumption, revive private investment and boost growth.

"I made some suggestions around mergers and acquisitions and demergers, about NCLT processes and about certain sections of income tax that are coming in the way of M&A or are slowing them down," Bharat Enterprises chairman Sunil Mittal told reporters after the meeting. "The idea is to create more freedom for the industry for them to perform. What we look forward to in this budget is that it unleashes the energy of the Indian entrepreneurs to do more."

Industry body CII sought policy stability in sectors like retail, mining, and automobiles.

CII president Vikram Kothari talked of applicability of reduced corporate tax rate of 22% for existing firms in limited liability partnerships and partnership firms. "This will in turn offer relief to the MSME sector," he said.

FICCI president Sandip Somany suggested that income tax for those earning over Rs 20 lakh should be halved to boost consumption. "Banks need to lower interest rates and pass on rate reduction announced by RBI."

The government has set up a Rs 25,000-crore fund to support under-development projects in the real estate sector. The industry seeks more relief for homebuyers to drive growth. "The government should allow homebuyers to get family tax deduction on home loans," said Ravi Raheja, group president of K Raheja Group.

Trade and Labour Unions Demand 200 Days of Work Under Job Scheme

New Delhi: Trade and labour unions have demanded 200 days of work under the national job scheme and equal benefits and wages for contract and regular workers with the minimum pension raised to Rs 3,000 for provident fund subscribers. The unions placed their demands at a customary pre-budget meeting with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme now provides 100 days of work. "More funds need to be allocated for the scheme and employment days be increased to 200," said Pawan Kumar, zonal secretary of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. --Our Bureau

CHANDRA SKIPS MEETING

Tata Sons executive chairman N Chandrasekaran skipped the pre-budget meeting with the finance minister on Thursday a day after NCLAT restored Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of the holding company of the Tata Group.

Chandrasekaran wrote to staff that the firm will take appropriate legal recourse.
The ASSOCHAM, a prominent business association, has urged the government to ensure that the recent relaxation in business regulations, such as easing of restrictions for the export sector, is not redundant or subject to frequent changes. "We need a stable, predictable environment for businesses to thrive," said Mr. Yogeshwar Advani, President of ASSOCHAM, in an interview.

In his remarks during a pre-budget meeting, the Finance Minister, Mr. Nirmala Sitharaman, acknowledged the challenges faced by businesses and emphasized the importance of reducing corporate tax rates to enhance competitiveness and attract foreign investments. "We understand the difficulties businesses face, especially those in the export sector," Mr. Sitharaman said. "We are committed to offering them a level playing field."
Industry asks govt to boost private investments to kick-start growth

In pre-budget meet, industrialists ask FM to improve regulatory environment, export competitiveness, encourage private investment, and improve infrastructure.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her pre-budget meeting with top industrialists and senior finance officials of BTMJ and chambers, said, "The government is committed to improving the regulatory environment and encouraging private investment. The industrialists also highlighted the need for better infrastructure and regulatory frameworks to attract private investments."
ASSOCHAM in the News

Business Standard (Page 02)
20th December 2019

INDUSTRY MEETS FM

We’re killing telecom industry, need Trai intervention: Mittal

Industrialists talk ease of doing business; trade bodies stress on minimum wages, I-T ceiling

ABHISHEK BHATIA
New Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Budget team on Thursday met representatives of India Inc and trade unions for pre-budget consultations.

While industrialists asked the Centre to take some steps to augment ease of doing business, trade bodies stressed on minimum wages, income-tax ceiling and pension.

Industry representatives, who included Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Mittal, Confederation of Indian Industry President Vikram Kirloskar and Assotech President Balkrishna Goenka, asked officials to “create more freedom for industry to perform”.

The corporate leaders highlighted several issues, including income tax roadblocks coming in the way of mergers and acquisitions or slowing businesses.

I have come here today to discuss only one thing — make doing business easy in the country. That was what my thrust was, Mittal told media persons after the meeting.

“The idea is to create more freedom for industry, for them to perform. I think the finance minister received them very well with her associates and secretaries. What we look forward to in this Budget is that it unleashes the energy of the Indian entrepreneurs to do more,” Mittal said.

“We are unnecessarily killing this industry in a manner and way that is not conducive for our industry, and that’s why we need Trai intervention,” Mittal added.

Expressing similar views, Assotech President Balkrishna Goenka said for “ease of doing business, states have to play an important role”, and last mile issues are there, which need to be resolved. When asked about the meeting, CII President Vikram Kirloskar said: “We talked about ease of doing business, which are the issues concerning many industries.”

RF-Shriram Goenka Group Senior Goenka said the discussions “centred around more issues. What can be done to stimulate growth, to facilitate the ease of doing business”.

“I think the finance minister and her team were extremely open to all suggestions,” Goenka said, adding that “for the first time I have seen this kind of response from the government”.

On the current slowdown and its impact on capacity utilisation across industries, Goenka said industry recognised that it could take up to four quarters before capacity utilisation reaches its peak.

“We understood that, and that is the reality of the situation,” he said.

Industry representatives also recommended that the Centre should reduce income tax for those who earn less than 120 lakh in a year so that there is more disposable in the hands of consumers and that interest rate transmission should be sped up.

“During the interactive session lasting over two hours, prominent industrialists spoke about improving regulatory environment to safeguard investments through ease of doing business, increasing export competitiveness, reviving private investment and focussing growth measures,” said an official statement after the meeting.

Earlier in the day, trade unions urged the government to provide a minimum wage of 21,000, minimum pension of 15,000 under the Employees’ Pension Scheme and tax exemption on annual income of up to 10 lakh.

The unions also raised concerns over rising unemployment in the country, saying “employment generation has not declined in recent period”. During the meeting, they suggested that massive public investment in infrastructure, social sectors and agriculture would generate employment and the Union Budget should focus on productivity.

They demanded that all vacant sanctioned posts in various government departments, including railways, PSUs and autonomous institutions, should be filled through fresh recruitment. They also suggested the finance minister that he should give relaxation to those who have not been promoted in recent years.

Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee of Parliament, Dr Bhupendra Yadav, told the finance minister that the government should put special emphasis on forward trading in essential commodities and take steps to internalise lockdowns along with strengthening price control system.
Ease biz processes at home: India Inc to govt

New Delhi: India Inc leaders, including Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, CII president Vikram Kirloskar and ASSOCHAM president Balkrishna Goenka, on Thursday asked the government to take measures to augment ease of doing business to "create more freedom for the industry to perform".

In a pre-Budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the corporate leaders highlighted several issues, including certain income tax matters that were coming in the way of mergers and acquisitions or slowing them down, and roles that need to be played by state businesses to prosper at the ground level.

"I have come here today to discuss only one thing — make doing business easy in the country. That was what my thrust was," Mittal said after the meeting.

He said some suggestions around mergers and acquisitions, demerger, NCLT process, about certain sections of Income tax which were coming in the way of M&A or slowing them down were made.

"The idea is to create more freedom for the industry, for them to perform. I think the FM received them very well with her associates and other RBI leaders.

In news, Balkrishna Goenka said for "ease of doing business, states have to play an important role" and last-mile issues need to be resolved. Kirloskar said, "We talked about ease of doing business, which are the issues concerning many industries."

RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka said the discussions "centred more around what can be done to stimulate growth, to facilitate ease of doing business". "I think the FM and her team were extremely open to all suggestions," Goenka said, adding that "it is the first time I have seen this kind of response from the government".

On the current slowdown and its impact on capacity utilisation across many industries, he said, "We all recognised that it is going to take a couple of quarters, three quarters, four quarters, before this capacity gets utilised. We understand that and that's the reason I am very happy about the FM's commitment in both the areas -- fiscal and monetary policy."

FICCI president Sandip Somany said the industry representatives gave a suggestion to the FM "to reduce Income tax for those who earn less than Rs 20 lakh in a year so that there is more disposable in the hands of consumers and the economy benefits". He further said, "We have also asked the FM to take measures about reducing EMI, which can happen only if the banks reduce the interest rates on loans." Stating that while the RBI has cut 135 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point), banks have reduced only 45bps, Somany said, "If there can be more transmission of RBI's cut to consumers, then the EMIs will be reduced and it will also improve consumption."

A finance ministry statement said, "During the interactive session lasting over two hours, prominent industrialists spoke about improving regulatory environment to safeguard investments through ease of doing business, increasing export competitiveness, reviving private investment and kickstarting growth measures."

In the pre-Budget consultations in connection with the forthcoming Budget 2020-21, industrialists also suggested many ways to boost the rural economy, especially to increase consumption.

IDEA EXCHANGE: Sunil Mittal (L) and Vikram Kirloskar were among those who met the FM.
Industrialists suggest ways to reverse economic downturn

Asit Ranjan Mishra

NEW DELHI: Prominent industrialists on Thursday urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to kick-start economic growth by encouraging private investment, improving the regulatory environment and increasing export competitiveness.

In a customary pre-budget consultation with Sitharaman and top officials of the Finance Ministry, the industrialists suggested ways to revive the rural economy by boosting consumption. The suggestions included ideas to improve the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code with regard to the National Company Law Tribunal and banks, faster merger, acquisition and demerger processes, and ways to reduce time for approval of foreign direct investment proposals, according to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry.

The industrialists also called for structural changes in laws for creating an effective and stable business environment, time-bound decisions for augmenting ease of business both at the central and state levels and fresh capital investment by the government towards infrastructure development. They also stressed on the need to prevent predatory pricing and dumping in India, facilitate research and development in the country to boost Make in India, and harness public-private partnership by leveraging social funding through a (non-bank financial companies) with focus on rural economy, and ways to increase consumption in the economy,” according to the statement.

Decriminalizing various laws and procedures would address the issue of trust deficit, said Vikram Kirloskar, president of the Confederation of Indian Industry. “This will be in line with the principle that entrepreneurship is a risky venture. Wilful defaulters should be dealt with firmly. However, in most cases, the fine should be enough to deal with inadvertent non-compliance,” he said.

Other industrialists who took part in the meeting included Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, GM Group chairman BVN Rao, Ashok Leyland Ltd managing director and chief executive Vipin Sondhi, RP Sanjiv Goenka Group chairman Dalal, Manoj Chug, president, group public affairs and member, group executive board, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, K Raheja Corp. Group president Ravi Raheja, Patanjali Ayurved Ltd chairman Acharya Balkrishan, Sandip Somany, president of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Balkrishan Goenka, president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.

Sitharaman on Thursday also met representatives of trade unions and labour organisations as part of the pre-budget consultations. The participants aired their concerns about provision of social security for workers besides skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling of the labour force. They also emphasized on the quality of job creation, the need to ensure minimum wages for workers in detail, and the need to remove restrictions on fishing.
Firms for more ease of doing business

India Inc. makes suggestions on mergers and acquisitions, last mile issues at pre-Budget meet with FM

India Inc. leaders, including Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, CII president Vikram Kothari and ASSOCHAM president Balkrishna Goenka, on Thursday, asked the government to take measures to augment ease of doing business to “create more freedom for the industry to perform.”

In a pre-Budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the corporate leaders highlighted several issues, including capital gains tax (CGT) matters coming in the way of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) or slowing them down.

“I have come here today to discuss only one thing – make doing business easy in the country. That was what my thrust was,” Mr. Mittal told reporters after the meeting.

He said some suggestions about M&A, demergers, NCLT process, certain sections of I-T that were coming in the way of M&A or slowing them down were made.

“The idea is to create more freedom for the industry, for them to perform. I think the Finance Minister received them very well with her associates and secretaries. What we look forward to this Budget is that they unleash the energy of the Indian entrepreneurs to do more,” Mr. Mittal said.

Echoing similar views, Mr. Goenka said for “ease of doing business, States have to play an important role” and last mile issues are there, which need to be resolved.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs a pre-Budget meeting with industrialists, in New Delhi on Thursday.

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs a pre-Budget meeting with industrialists, in New Delhi on Thursday.
Improve business climate, FM told

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday met corporate leaders and representatives of various trade unions as a part of the pre-Budget consultations, where the leaders suggested creating more freedom for the industry to perform and also putting more money in the hands of consumers.

"I have come here today to discuss only one thing, make doing business easy in the country. That was what my thrust was," Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal told reporters.

The corporate leaders highlighted several issues, including certain income-tax matters, which were coming in the way of mergers and acquisitions, or slowing them down. They stressed on the roles that need to be played by state businesses to prosper at the ground level.

"The idea is to create more freedom for the industry to perform. I think the finance minister received them very secretaries. What we look forward to this Budget is that they unleash the energy of the Indian entrepreneurs, to do more," Mittal said.

Expressing similar views, ASSOCHAM president Balkrishna Goenka said that for "ease of doing business, states have to play an important role."


"We have asked the Centre to reduce income-tax for those who earn less than ₹20 lakh a year, so that there's more disposable income with consumers, from which the economy benefits," Somany said.

The finance minister also met representatives of trade unions and labour organisations, who shared their views regarding labour and employment issues.
India Inc lists growth recipe

India Inc had met Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on December 10, 2019, to discuss the tax proposals in the upcoming budget. Some of the key demands made by the industry included a reduction in corporate tax rates and rationalisation of the tax structure. The industry also sought a reduction in taxes on capital gains, real estate, and insurance.

According to a statement from ASSOCHAM, the meeting was aimed at discussing the growth of the Indian economy and the need for tax simplification. The industry representatives highlighted the importance of a stable and predictable tax regime for businesses.

ASSOCHAM President Pramod Mahajan stated that the industry was concerned about the recent increase in corporate taxes and urged the government to reconsider its proposals. He added that the industry was ready to work with the government to find a solution that would benefit both the economy and the taxpayers.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various sectors including manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and software. The industry leaders also discussed issues such as the need for better infrastructure, access to credit, and skilled labor.

The government has acknowledged the concerns of the industry and has assured them that it will take steps to address their issues. The meeting was a positive step towards building a constructive dialogue between the government and the industry.
Industrialists, TUs place their Budget proposals

FM meets industrialists and representatives of trade unions ahead of Budget

**RUN-UP TO BUDGET**

- Industrialists spoke about improving regulatory environment to safeguard investments through ease of doing business, increasing export competitiveness, reviving private investment and kick-starting growth of economy.

In their meeting with the finance minister, representatives of trade unions and labour organisations shared their views and suggestions regarding labour and employment issues.

Sanjiv Goenka Group; Jatin Dalal from Wipro Ltd; Manoj Chugh from Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd; Ravi Raheja, group president, K Raheja Corp Group; and Acharya Balkrishan, chairman, Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. Representing the industry bodies were Vikram Kirloskar, president, CII; Sandip Somany, president, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); and Balkrishan Goenka, president, ASSOCHAM.

In their meeting with the finance minister, representatives of trade unions and labour organisations shared their views and suggestions regarding labour and employment issues.

They discussed skilling, reskilling and upskilling of existing labour force as well as quality of job creation and ensuring minimum wages of workers.

The participants aired their concerns about provision of social security to labour besides the need to streamline various schemes for better results.
India Inc draws govt attention on ease of doing business

Seeks steps to create more freedom for them to perform

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

Industry leaders, including Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, CII president Vikram Kirloskar and Assocham president Balkrishna Goenka, on Thursday asked the government to take measures to augment ease of doing business to “create more freedom for the industry to perform”.

In a pre-Budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the corporate leaders highlighted several issues, including certain income tax matters which were coming in the way of mergers and acquisitions or slowing them down and roles that need to be played by state businesses to prosper at the ground level.

"The idea is to create more freedom for the industry, for them to perform. I think the FM received them very well with her associates. What we look forward to this Budget is that they unleash the energy of the Indian entrepreneurs to do more" — Sunil Bharti Mittal, CHAIRMAN, BHARITI ENTERPRISES

"The industry representatives gave suggestions to the FM to reduce income tax for those who earn less than ₹20 lakh in a year so that there is more disposable income in the hands of consumers and the economy benefits" — Sandip Somany, PRESIDENT, FICCI

"I have come here today to discuss only one thing — make doing business easy in the country. That was what my thrust was," Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal told reporters after the meeting.

He said some suggestions around mergers and acquisitions (M&As), demerger, NCLT process, about certain sections of income tax which were coming in the way of M&A or slowing them down were made.

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Expressing similar views, Assocham president Balkrishna Goenka said for “ease of doing business, states have to play an important role” and last mile issues are there, which need to be resolved.

CII president Vikram Kirloskar said, “We talked about ease of doing business, which are the issues concerning many industries.” — PTI
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When asked about the meeting, CII President Vikram Kirloskar said, “We talked about ease of doing business, which are the issues concerning many industries”.

FM’s pre-Budget meet: India Inc seeks ease of doing business

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs a pre-budget meeting with industrialists, in New Delhi, Thursday

PK/PIE

No wonder the ease of doing business.

“I think the finance minister and her team were extremely open to all suggestions,” Goenka said, adding that “it is the first time I have seen this kind of response from the government”.

On the current slowdown and its impact on capacity utilisation across many industries, he said, “We all recognised that it is going to take a couple of quarters, three quarters, four quarters, before this capacity gets utilised. We understand that, and that is the reality of the situation.”

Ficci President Sandip Somany said the industry representatives gave suggestion to the FM “to reduce income tax for those who earn less than Rs 20 lakh, annual, so that there is more disposable in the hands of consumers and the economic benefits”. He further said, “We have also asked the FM to take measures about reducing EMI’s which can happen only if the banks reduce interest rates on loans.”

State that while the RBI has cut 135 bps, banks have reduced only 45 bps, Somany said, “If there can be more transmission of RBI’s cut to consumers, then the EMI’s will be reduced and it will also improve consumption.”

A finance ministry statement said, “During the interactive session lasting over two hours, prominent industrialists spoke about improving regulatory environment to safeguard investments through ease of doing business, increasing starting growth measures.”

In the pre-budget consultations in connection with the forthcoming General Budget 2020-21, industrialists also suggested many ways to boost the rural economy, especially to increase consumption, it added.

Other suggestions included improvement in insolvency process in relation to NCLTs and banks; faster mergers, acquisitions and demergers processes; ways to reduce time for FDI approval; structural changes in laws for effective and stable business environment; time-bound decisions for augmenting ease of doing business both at the central and state levels.

The industry leaders also called for new investment of capital for building infrastructure, CAPEX for infrastructure to boost the economy, preventing predatory pricing and dumping in India while facilitating R&D in India to boost Make in India, the statement said.

They also called for harnessing public-private-partnership (PPP) by leveraging social funding through a new programme and ensure liquidity for NBFCs with focus on the rural economy and ways to increase consumption in the economy, it added.

Other industry leaders who took part in the pre-Budget consultations were GMR Group Chairman BVR Rao, Ashok Leyland MD and CEO Vijay Sethu, Wipro Global Chief Financial Officer Jatin Dalal, K Raheja Corp Group President Ravi Raheja and Patanjali

ASSOCHAM in the News

Millennium Post (Page 12)

20th December 2019
Improve business climate, FM told

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

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The corporate leaders highlighted several issues, including certain income-tax matters, which were coming in the way of mergers and acquisitions, or slowing them down. They stressed on the roles that need to be played by state businesses to prosper at the ground level.

“The idea is to create more secretaries. What we look forward to this Budget is that they unleash the energy of the Indian entrepreneurs, to do more,” Mittal said.

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The finance minister also met representatives of trade
ASSOCHAM has decided to increase consumer demand in the rural economy by offering a new program to boost the economy and enhance financial literacy. The association is calling on banks to offer more loans to rural areas and provide better infrastructure for the new investment of capital. The benefits also include the development of new businesses and employment opportunities. The program is expected to boost the rural economy, providing a platform for economic growth and development.
GoS to establish farmer producer bodies
to bolster crop supply

KOLKATA: The state government has taken the initiative of establishing Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to ensure balance in supply chain of crops.

"We have started the initiative called FPO. Around 12,000 farmers of a particular area have joined hands to make these organisations and we are encouraging them for collecting activity. They will decide who will grow what and how much," said P A Siddique, secretary of state Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, on the sidelines of the National Conference on Multi-Modal Logistics System for Food Processing Sector of India, on Thursday.

Consul General of Nepal Eknarayan Aryal and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) director Perminder Jeet Kaur were present on the occasion as well.

According to a report published by the Boston Consult-
mately 1.2 trillion dollars are lost worldwide or go to waste every year.

According to the Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, 18 percent of fruit and vegetable production valued at Rs 31,500 crore is lost annually for improper post-harvesting management in India. If this problem is not addressed today, it is expected to become a 1.5 trillion dollar problem by 2050.

It might be mentioned that recently the price of onions had shot up throughout the country due to a shortage of supply from Nasik. In Tamil Nadu and Madurai, onion was sold for over Rs 200 per kg, while in Kolkata, the price touched Rs 150.

To maintain balance of supply and demand, the state Food department had decided to sell onions at Rs 59 per kg from all fair price shops and Sufal Bangla retail outlets.

Last week, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also paid a surprise visit to the Sufal Bangla retail outlet at Jadubabur
Municipal Commissioner calls for list of e-wastes in govt offices

SOUMITRA NANDI

KOLKATA: Municipal Commissioner Khalil Ahmed has requested all controlling officers to prepare a list of e-wastes (Electronic Waste) that are currently lying within their respective office premises.

According to a communiqué issued by the Commissioner, the list of e-wastes shall reach the controlling officer (Information Technology) by January 15, 2020.

"The empanelled agency certified by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) shall visit, inspect and collect e-wastes from the premises and shall manage subsequent disposal process as per norms," said a senior official of KMC.

Ahmed has categorically mentioned 33 articles that come under the e-waste category, so that the controlling officers can prepare a comprehensive list.

The concerned Manager (Systems) and Deputy Manager (Systems) will be extending help for identifying e-wastes under the departments.

According to the official, a reasonable quantity of e-waste has accumulated in various offices of the civic body that also include its main building on S N Banerjee Road.

“We have asked all government departments and agencies to deal with e-waste as per the E-Waste Management Rules 2016 framed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change," said Kalyan Rudra, chairman of WBPCB.

Experts opined that improper disposal of e-waste involves a constant risk of land and water pollution through contamination.

Dr. Sadhan Kumar Ghosh, founder coordinator of the Centre for Quality Management System at Jadavpur University, said that the state government, in collaboration with WBPCB, should come out with a strong mechanism for implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

EPR means responsibility of any producer of electrical or electronic equipment, for channelisation of e-waste to ensure environmentally sound management of such waste.

"Some small organisations are involved in collection of e-waste through mobile apps, but we are not sure whether they are disposing them as per the guidelines of E-Waste Management Rules 2016," Ghosh added.

It may be mentioned that India is among the top five e-waste generating countries in the world, according to a report published last year by the trade body ASSOCHAM and NEC Technologies India Private Limited. The others in the top five are China, Japan, Germany and USA.