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LAWS AND POLICIES RELATED TO WASTE MANGEMENT FRAMEWORK IN UTTARAKHAND: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DEHRADUN

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ABSTRACT

The municipality of Dehradun is seeing significant issues stemming from the heightened generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) and is struggling to manage it effectively. Dehradun Possesses considerable potential to enhance its ranking and could emerge as the cleanest city in the nation. The government faces challenges in addressing overflowing landfills in major cities due to the concerning increase in garbage, predominantly discarded near metropolitan regions. IN recent years, Dehradun has had a significant increase in its urban population, resulting in heightened trash production. Since its designation as the capital of Uttarakhand in 2001, the city's population has surged by over 32%.

Keywords: Waste management, Municipal solid waste, Dehradun, Urbanization, Population Growth, Landfills.

INTRODUCTION

The growth of urban populations has made municipal solid waste management (MSWM) essential. Municipal corporations and local authorities must reduce and manage solid waste effectively. The municipality of Dehradun is facing numerous challenges due to the increased production of municipal solid waste (MSW) and struggles to handle it properly. Dehradun has significant potential to improve its ranking and could become the cleanest city in the country.

Solid waste management is a critical part of a city's infrastructure. As a city grows, it requires more human resources to manage waste. These issues arise with economic growth and have negative effects on solid waste management. To lessen these impacts, effective MSWM strategies are necessary. Poor waste management systems can lead to severe environmental problems.

Globally, solid waste management is responsible for about 1.59 billion tons of CO2 emissions each year, which accounts for around 4.9% of greenhouse gas emissions. The damage from improper waste management is immense and harms both macro and micro ecosystems. Blocked drainage systems harbour germs that can lead to various diseases.

Globally, only 19% of waste is recycled, reused, or composted (Sohkhlet and Nagargoje, 2020). In India, the processes for collecting, transporting, and disposing of MSW are largely ineffective and chaotic. The government struggles to tackle overflowing landfills in major cities due to the alarming rise in waste, primarily dumped near urban areas (Gupta et al., 1998). The way waste is discarded makes landfills hard to recover and causes significant environmental issues, such as groundwater contamination and global warming. Burning waste at landfill sites without appropriate technology is common.

This practice increases emissions of suspended particles and particulate matter, sometimes equaling vehicle emissions. Solid waste recycling remains unorganized due to a lack of proper waste sorting and public awareness campaigns. Beyond a small city, the rest of the state has not embraced modern technology for MSWM. Still, the waste and recycling sector significantly boosts the economy, mainly due to the growing global demand for waste and recycled materials. Dehradun and Indore are tier II cities in India participating in the Smart Cities Mission, an initiative by the Indian government. They have also been part of the Swach Survekshan since it started. In August 2020, Indore was named the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive year. In comparison, Dehradun ranked 124, an improvement from its previous rank of 384 but still behind other cities in the state.

In recent years, Dehradun has seen a dramatic rise in its urban population, leading to more waste generation. Since it became the capital of Uttarakhand in 2001, the city's population has increased by more than 32% (from 1.28 million in 2001 to 1.69 million in 2011) (Kundu, 2011). The number of industrial units in Dehradun surged from 247 to 3,044 between 2001 and 2011–12 (DIC Dehradun, 2012).

MAJOR ACTS AND POLICIES RELATED TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste legislation is usually categorized by waste type. International agreements often cover hazardous waste, while non-hazardous waste, or solid waste, is generally regulated at the national level. From an environmental standpoint, these regulations are crucial for MSWM

• The Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 2000, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India on September 25, 2000. These guidelines cover all aspects of municipal solid waste management.

• These rules have been amended over time, with the most recent changes made in 2016.

• The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. This law requires consent from the state pollution control board for establishing sanitary landfills and compost plants. Additionally, it mandates that leachate from these sites must not pollute water sources.

• The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 and its amendments. This law includes provisions for levying and collecting charges on water used for sanitary landfilling, composting, and anaerobic digestion.

• The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and its amendments. This law emphasizes the need for consent from the State Pollution Control Board for processing plants and disposal sites. It also addresses pollution caused by incineration plants, compost facilities, and landfills.

• The Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and its subsequent notifications. Within this framework, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 1994 states that any project must submit an EIA report for approval first.

UTTARAKHAND STATE LEVEL ACTION PLANS

• In 2015, Uttarakhand crafted a state-level action plan to manage, handle, and dispose of municipal solid waste according to the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules,

2000.

• This action plan is phased, starting with Dehradun in the first phase, and anticipates a budget of approximately Rs 786 crore. The first five years of funding will come from the National Ganga River Basic Authority "Namami Gange" mission.

• A total of 49 projects will be introduced from 2015-2021 by 81 urban local bodies (ULBs) to manage solid waste in the state.

• The action plan aims to address the anticipated rise in municipal waste generation, projected to reach about 9,500 tons per day by 2040, totaling an estimated 9.0 million tons from 2014-41. Therefore, urgent solutions are needed, and the plan is in place. Under the new action plan, the "polluter pays" principle will be strictly enforced.

Solid Waste Management Plant by DMC

• A news report from April 2016 mentions that officials of Dehradun Municipal Corporation (DMC) expect the solid waste management plant in the city to become operational soon.

• There were discussions about a potential partnership between Nagar Nigam and German experts to solve the SWM problem.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Indo-German Environment Partnership (2012-15)

• Under this partnership, the Government of India and respective state governments provided guidelines to municipal corporations on SWM. The Uttarakhand government hired technical experts, and Nagar Nigam entered into a partnership agreement.

• As part of the Indo-German Environment Partnership (IGEP), a draft manual was created to address the issue of solid waste management.

Issues Relating to Waste Management in Dehradun

• Satto Ghati, located near Patel Nagar, is around 700-800 meters long and densely populated with slums and semi-pucca homes. This area is a significant contributor to the spread of dengue and chikungunya throughout Dehradun.

• The Bindal River has turned into a foul, polluted stream filled with plastics, animals, and other waste.

• Residents in this area face serious issues, such as guests not visiting their homes and local authorities failing to address their concerns.

CASE LAWS

Sai Nath Seva Mandal v. State of Uttarakhand & others [Writ Petition (PIL) No.80 of 2012]

The Uttarakhand HC has issued guidelines which are as follows

• All the Officers of the municipal corporations, municipal bodies, Nagar Panchayats, Panchayati Raj Institutions shall ensure that no garbage, rubbish, filth etc. is deposited by any person in any street or public place.

• All the streets, public premises such as parks etc. shall be surface cleaned on daily basis, including on Sundays and Public holidays by Municipal Corporations, Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Panchayati Raj Institutions.

• All the local bodies of the State are directed to ensure that the Sweepers, throughout the State, do not burn leaves collected from street sweeping and with a further direction to store them separately and handover the same to the waste collectors or agency authorised by the local body.

• All the workers deployed for cleaning the streets and removal of garbage including bio-degradable medical waste should be provided with necessary equipment's including uniforms, shoes, gloves and other implements etc. for winters and summers separately and also proper uniforms which have reflectors and be provided with ID cards also.

• All the streets and roads falling within the municipal areas, municipal corporation/Panchayati Raj institutions should be surface cleaned in the morning.

• The State Government is directed to take decision on all the proposals sent to it by the Municipal Bodies for managing the Solid Waste in their territorial jurisdiction within four weeks from today.

• The Municipal Corporation/Municipal bodies, throughout the State, may consider to provide two dustbins (for collection of dry and wet bio-medical waste), free-of-cost, to all the households in the Municipal area, depending on their financial health.

• The Nagar Nigam, Dehradun and Nagar Nigam, Haridwar are directed to complete the tender process relating to solid waste management, if not already completed, within eight weeks from today and thereafter to implement the Solid Waste Management Scheme.

• There shall be a general direction to all the Waste Generators, throughout the State of Uttarakhand, not to litter i.e. throw or dispose of any waste such as paper, water bottles, liquor

bottles, soft drink canes, tetra packs, fruit peel, wrappers, etc., or burn or bury waste on streets, open public spaces, drains, waste bodies and to segregate the waste at source. The local bodies must also consider imposing heavy fine on the violators of the order.

• The local authorities and Village Panchayats are further directed to set up material recovery facilities or secondary storage facilities with sufficient space for sorting of recyclable materials.

• The local authorities and Gram Panchayats are directed to ensure safe storage and transportation of the domestic hazardous waste to the hazardous waste disposal facility.

S. Nandakumar v. The Secretary To Government Of Tamil Nadu (W.P.No.21562 of 2024 & W.M.P.No.23527 of 2024)

• The municipalities were not in a position to establish their solid waste processing plant on account of various reasons including the non-availability of unobjectionable site. It was only in such circumstances they have joined together and made an application before the Government to permit them to establish a common solid waste processing plant.

Recommendations:

1. Installations of Community Dustbin.
2. Ensuring door-to-door collection facilities in the entire city.
3. Increased awareness regarding SWM issues among the general public.
4. Emphasis on PPP model for SWM.
5. Implementing Waste to Energy Model.
6. Burning of waste in open air must immediately be stopped.
7. Revival of Bindal Stream 8. Converting Satto Wali Ghati into a lush green space.
9. Identification of proper dumping site.
10. Ensuring segregation of waste at source.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE STATE

• The People Action for Safe Environment Foundation has initiated a third solid waste management unit called “Rajeshwari Nursery” in Dehradun.

• The U-Turn Foundation, which focuses on environmental protection, has launched a program to educate people about the negative effects of using polythene.

• In June 2015, the District Magistrate of Dehradun issued an order to prohibit the sale of polythene

bags in the city.

CONCLUSION

As the population of state is increasing day by day, so the waste, the need of the hour is to minimize the open disposal of waste. The State also require to take strict action against the violators.

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