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Project to contain biomedical waste hazards in hosps

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 100-bedded hospital is estimated to generate 40 kg of hospital waste per day. Twenty eight hospitals in Karnataka, two of which are private and the rest are government, have been chosen for a project called 'Environmentally Sound Management of Medical Wastes in India'. The project is being implemented in the selected 28 health care facilities and one model district (Mysuru in Karnataka) in each of the five states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Punjab.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Government of India, is the national executing agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization is the implementing agency. The aim of the project is to eliminate the emission of organic pollutants from burning of biomedical waste. There is also a training component in this project which was launched on Monday in MS Ramaiah Medical College and Hospital, one of the 28 selected hospitals.

Biomedical waste is hazardous with a potential to spread infection; and generation and release of high levels of unintentionally produced organic pollutants like dioxin and furan. Segregation at source is the crux of bio-medical waste management as only about 15 to 20 per cent of waste is infectious.

"A detailed situational analysis carried out in five states during the preparatory phase of this project showed that by proper segregation and either by applying non-incineration techniques or upgrading existing incinerators more than 50 per cent of dioxin and furans reduction can be achieved," said Dr S Pruthvish, HoD, Community Medicine, M S Ramaiah Medical College.

Under the project's institutional capacity building component supply of colour coded bins, covered waste collection trolleys, needle cutters, protective equipment, microwaves for treating biomedical waste will be supplied. In Mysuru, at least one common treatment facility will be developed or upgraded. Retrofitting of damaged vehicles carrying biomedical waste will be done and state-of-the art integrated system of medical waste management with complete tracking of waste movement through bar coding will be done.

AYUSH docs to fill posts in PHCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bengaluru

THERE are 2,207 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the state and vacancies for 257 doctors. As a result, the Department of Health has decided to fill the posts with AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Sidda and Homeopathy) doctors.

Principal Secretary to the Health Department Shalini Rajneesh told *Express*, "By December, there will be no PHC with vacancies as the Health Department has decided to recruit AYUSH doctors. But if MBBS doctors want to apply, they are welcome. First preference will be given to them."

The state drug controller is heading a committee which will study the feasibility of AYUSH doctors prescribing allopathic drugs. The doctors will be paid the same as what MBBS doctors are being paid, which is ₹40,000 in urban and ₹42,000 in rural areas for contract doctors in PHCs.

Health Minister K R Ramesh Kumar said, "When we made rural service compulsory, MBBS doctors went to court and got a stay.

They have been made doctors with the state's money but there is no sense of gratitude among them. Now when we want to recruit AYUSH doctors, they want to oppose that too. Should people be left to die?"