

CHAPTER - 8

Management of Batteries

8.1 Regulatory Framework, Policies and Strategies

GoI made the Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 (BM Rules) which is applicable to every manufacturer, importer, re-conditioner, assembler, dealer, recycler, auctioneer, consumer and bulk consumer involved in manufacture, processing, sale, purchase and use of batteries or components thereof. It is the duty of manufacturer, importer, assembler and re-conditioner to ensure that the used batteries were collected back and sent to the registered recyclers and no damage is caused to the environment during storage and transportation of such used batteries.

The designated authority for ensuring compliance with the provisions of BM Rules is UPPCB and an annual compliance status report is to be submitted to the CPCB by 30 April of every year.

8.2 Planning and Implementation

City has large establishments of the Army, Railway and Telecom departments in addition to several auto manufacturers, who are the bulk users/consumers of batteries. The number of vehicles in the City has also shown a marked increase during last few years. The lead used in batteries is hazardous and requires proper handling at all stages. Therefore, disposal and recycling of batteries, wherever required, should be done in units possessing environmentally sound technology compliant with the BM Rules, 2001 and to avoid emission of lead into atmosphere as also discharge of acid into the open and sewers.

Audit observed (July 2010) that:

- UPPCB had identified only five battery manufacturers in the City since BM Rules became effective and two of these five were closed;
- It failed to identify importers, re-conditioners, assemblers, dealers, recyclers, auctioneers and bulk consumers;
- UPPCB had also not maintained any record of inspections of these units in violation of the BM Rules; and
- Six monthly reports for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10, in respect of such identified establishments, had not been sent to CPCB (July 2010).

In the absence of proper identification, UPPCB failed to take the stipulated action against the unauthorised /illegal recyclers of used lead acid batteries.

In reply to audit, UPPCB stated (August 2010) that the stipulated actions could not be taken due to shortage of manpower.

While accepting the facts, the Government stated (August 2011) that the UPPCB had identified five manufacturers, granted authorisation to one handler and identified 16 operators at Lucknow and UPPCB was in the process of identifying importers, dealers, recyclers, auctioneers, consumers and bulk consumers and, if necessary, would initiate expert inventorisation through outsourcing.

8.3 Recommendations

- *UPPCB may ensure compulsory registration of each manufacturer, importer, re-conditioner, assembler, dealer, recycler, auctioneer and bulk consumer; and*
- *Online registration facilities may be provided.*