

FOREWORD

Solid Waste Management has been one of the neglected areas of urban management activities in India. By and large, in cities and towns hardly 50 per cent of the solid wastes generated are collected, transported and disposed off, giving rise to insanitary conditions and diseases, especially amongst the urban poor who constitute about 35 per cent of the urban population.

It is estimated that out of one billion people living in the country about 300 million reside in urban areas. It is likely that 40 per cent of the urban population would be residing in 40 Metros by 2001. The situation is frightening, big towns are becoming bigger, bigger ones are becoming metros and metropolises are becoming mega-polises. Concerned Urban Local Bodies responsible for providing the basic services like Water Supply, Sewerage and Solid Waste Management and other amenities to the people are finding it increasingly difficult to cope up with the demand due to fast growth of urban population, thereby adversely affecting the management of such services to the people.

Efficient garbage collection, transportation and disposal are among the vital functions of Urban Local Bodies. Despite the fact that a large number of staff is employed by them to discharge this function and a substantial portion of their annual budget is spent only on garbage collection, transportation and disposal, the situation in the towns and cities remains far from satisfactory. The issue of recycling of solid waste has not received due attention. With the solid waste generation increasing with time, the importance of recycling needs to be recognized and given due importance.

The continuous deterioration of quality of life in urban areas has underlined the need to create better environmental conditions and evolve a workable national strategy for solid waste management. As a follow-up, the Ministry of Urban Development had constituted an Expert Committee in February, 1998 for preparation of "***Manual on Municipal Solid Waste Management***". The Expert Committee had done a commendable job and brought out the Manual, which is now available to the Urban Local Bodies and other User Agencies to guide them for planning, designing and implementation of solid waste management projects in urban areas.

I am confident that the Urban Local Bodies and other service providers will find this Manual very useful as a practical tool for discharging their day to day functions in a more effective, efficient and sustainable manner with respect to Municipal Solid Waste Management.

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