



Conservancy and Sanitation Department (MCD)

At a Glance

Functions

The responsibility of municipal solid waste management is entrusted with the Conservancy and Sanitation Department of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for the areas under the jurisdiction of MCD. The task includes collection, transportation and disposal of garbage and desilting of storm water drains.

Findings

- ☞ The Conservancy and Sanitation Department handles about 6,500 metric tonnes of garbage everyday, which goes up to 7,500 metric tonnes in festive seasons and monsoons.
- ☞ The Department has constructed 2,405 dustbins/*dhalaos* for the collection of garbage.
- ☞ There are three landfill sites for disposal of garbage in Delhi.
- ☞ The CAG Report states that the Department takes 2-15 days to attend the complaints regarding garbage removal. No mechanism exists to ensure daily removal of garbage.
- ☞ The working strength of *safai karamcharis* was more than the sanctioned strength and the excess varied between 28% to 33% during 1999-2001.
- ☞ The non-plan expenditure of the Department increased by 126% over the period 1996-2001.
- ☞ The number of *safai karamcharis* in the Department is almost double the number employed in other metro cities. A comparison of *safai karamcharis* in metro cities in India revealed that there are about 36 *safai karamcharis* per 10,000 people in Delhi—far greater than that employed in other cities—the average varies between 18-20 for Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

Reforms

- ☞ Ward level user associations can contract with private parties or with MCD for collection and disposal of solid waste. The ward level decentralisation would allow each ward to decide the most suitable way of dealing with their solid waste—contract with an NGO, do collection themselves and contract out only transport and disposal. Divide the task of waste management into three components: collection, transportation and disposal at the landfill site.
- ☞ The *safai karamcharis* should establish cooperatives and bid for the contracts of garbage collection and transportation of garbage.
- ☞ The Department should identify sufficient number of landfill sites for all the different types of waste generated in the city. The construction and maintenance of the landfill sites should be contracted out to a private company.