

NITI, MEITY HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

E-waste Policy Recast to Focus on No of Products Recycled

Earlier policies stressed on extraction of metals and rare earth minerals

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New Delhi: The government is planning to revamp the electronic waste policy, focusing on complete lifecycle management of products and offering incentives to make it an attractive proposition for the industry, said officials. The revised policy could allow the industry to take into account the total volume of electronics products recycled instead of the amount of metals and rare earth minerals extracted from these products, they said.

The Niti Aayog and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) have held multiple stakeholder consultations to firm up the policy and it may be released soon, said the officials.

"The e-waste policy this time will aim to address issues related to collection of waste, producer's responsibility and other policy related issues not adequately addressed earlier," a senior government official at NITI Aayog told ET on condition of anonymity.

E-waste, generated from discarded electronic items, is rich in rare earth minerals and metals including gold, silver, copper and aluminium.

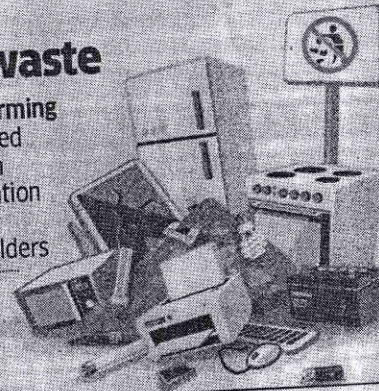
MeitY officials said the revised approach will be to encourage companies to look at the complete lifecycle management of products through the concept of a cir-

Managing E-waste

NITI Aayog moots a tweaked, more focused e-waste policy

MeitY firming up revised policy in consultation with stakeholders

New policy to focus on complete lifecycle management of products



Centre to incentivise industry to take up recycling of products

EARLIER POLICIES WERE FOCUSED ON EXTRACTION OF METALS AND MINERALS

cular economy.

"While the government may think of incentives, it is likely to change the approach and give incentives on the number of electronic products recycled instead of the volume of metal and rare earth minerals extracted from the product," said a MeitY official, who did not wish to be identified, adding that the policies around e-waste earlier did not have the desired impact as they focused more on the extraction of rare earth metals and minerals.

It is estimated that e-waste in India is growing at the rate of 10% annually and major recycling of e-waste continues to be in the non-formal sector using primitive and hazardous methods.

According to the Global E-Waste Moni-

tor 2020 report, India generated 3.2 million tonnes of e-waste in 2019, ranking third after China (10.1 million tonnes) and the United States (6.9 million tonnes). India collected just 10% of the e-waste estimated to have been generated in the country in 2018-19 and 3.5% of that generated in 2017-18, said a recent report by the Central Pollution Control Board.

According to estimates from Frost & Sullivan, the total amount of e-waste in India is estimated to reach at least 11.5 million metric tonnes by 2025. India has nearly 450 registered e-waste recyclers. Experts also suggest that the e-waste management sector is likely to grow at a compound annual growth rate of up to 14% in revenue till 2025.