

e-waste management, Kerala's worry

Lack of dismantling and recycling mechanism has led to crisis in State

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Kerala is faced with the possibility of a crisis posed by accumulation of e-wastes owing to the lack of authorised dismantling and recycling units. With the State government yet to initiate steps in this regard, scrap dealers are constrained to transport large quantities of electronic wastes to other States.

The glaring inadequacy in e-waste management came to the fore during a sensitisation and training programme organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology during the last few days here. Implemented by the Manufacturers Association of Information and Technology (MAIT), the training on e-waste management was conducted by the NGO,



Mounting problem: Scrap dealers are constrained to transport large quantities of electronic wastes to other States.

Chintan environmental research and action group.

Manju Minhas, senior project manager, Chintan, who led the training pointed out that there were no recycling, dismantling or refurbishment units for e-wastes in Kerala, even while many other States had dedicated facilities for the same purpose. "Despite doing quite well in

solid waste management, the State lagged behind others as far as e-waste management is concerned. There also was a lack of awareness regarding E-Waste Management Rules, 2016, among many stakeholders," she said.

Contrastingly, there were 17 authorised e-waste dismantling units and five recy-

clers in Tamil Nadu. Moreover, there were 84 licensed dismantlers and recycling units for electronic wastes in Karnataka.

Kerala Scrap Merchants' Association State president K.S. Mohammed Faisal Labba pointed out that while the organisation had expressed willingness to establish dismantling units in each districts, the failure of the agencies concerned to provide guidelines had hindered such efforts. "As a result, around 95% of the total e-wastes generated were either abandoned carelessly or handed over to agents from other States who supply such items to recyclers in north India. Only a very few dispose of the wastes at the 10 authorised collection centres that have been established in Kerala," he said.