



NGT Orders Probe into Unsafe Biomedical Waste Handling

Background

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has expressed serious concern over the alleged unsafe handling and disposal of biomedical waste by several hospitals. Biomedical waste, if not managed properly, poses a significant risk to public health and the environment, especially in densely populated areas.

The Case

- **The matter came before the Central Bench of NGT in Bhopal, where complaints were raised about hospitals failing to follow prescribed norms in biomedical waste disposal.**
- **Concerns included improper segregation of waste, mixing of biomedical and general waste, and failure to treat hazardous materials before disposal.**

NGT Action

- **The Tribunal has constituted a joint committee comprising officials from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards, and local health authorities.**

- **This committee has been directed to investigate the violations, inspect hospitals and waste treatment facilities, and submit a comprehensive report within six weeks.**

Key Concerns Highlighted

- **Public health risk: Exposure of waste handlers and communities to infectious waste.**
- **Environmental hazards: Contamination of soil and groundwater due to unsafe dumping.**
- **Regulatory lapses: Lack of strict enforcement of the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016.**

Expected Outcomes

- **Identification of defaulting hospitals and waste treatment operators.**
- **Recommendations for corrective measures, including stricter monitoring, penalties, and improved waste management infrastructure.**
- **Possible policy-level interventions to strengthen compliance mechanisms across the healthcare sector.**

Broader Context

India generates over 600 tonnes of biomedical waste daily, and lapses in disposal practices have been a recurring concern. This probe is expected to set a precedent for stronger regulation and accountability in biomedical waste management nationwide.