

Soon, you can't just dump your old PC

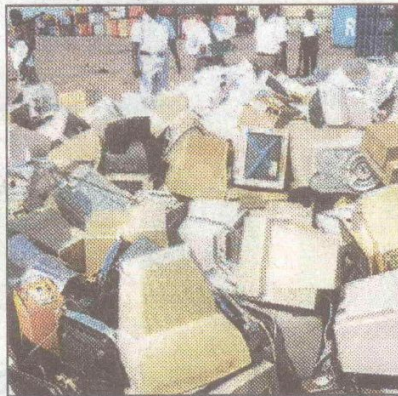
E-Waste Must Go To Authorized Centres From Next May

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Starting May 2012, all old computers and electronic equipment will have to be disposed of to authorized collection centres that would deal with electronic waste. The move comes with the government recently notifying the e-waste (management and handling) rules put up in 2010.

The problem of e-waste has turned serious with increased use of computers in the country. In 2007, the country generated 330,000 tonnes of e-waste—equivalent of 110 million laptops—according to an industry report. E-waste volume is rising sharply every year. About 10% of this e-waste is recycled, the remaining refurbished. The waste contains chemicals that are polluting in nature and at times toxic too. The handling of e-

CLEAR THE E-MESS



► In 2007, India generated 330,000 tonnes of e-waste. That's like 110 million laptops

► E-waste contains polluting chemicals that can be toxic

► But now the government has notified the e-waste management rules put up in 2010

► Old PCs, refrigerators, TVs and other e-waste will soon go only to recognized collection centres

waste has also gained importance with the country becoming a hub for imports, along with China.

The new rules require consumers to dispose their old computers, televisions, refrigerators and other electronic waste with recognised collection centers that will be set up. The bulk consumers—corporates and other large units—will also have to maintain records of such electronic waste sold off to recyclers. The companies selling electronic goods, too, will be responsible for ensuring that their products do not end up in the informal market once their usable life is over. But the leap from rules to reality may be difficult to regulate with a large percentage of computer market in India based on assembled grey market and the recycling housed in cities like Moradabad.