

e-Waste: A Disaster or an Opportunity for India

R.P. Das

HydroMet Proc, Bhubaneswar 751018, India

Abstract

In recent years, several India and international studies have cautioned India against generation, treatment, and accumulation of e waste in India. It is estimated that by 2010, India will be discarding 10 million PCs per year- about five times the current level. In addition , the country also receives a large quantity of waste from several developed countries. Due to inadequate law, or its poor implementation, these wastes are currently handled by unorganized sector using un-skilled labour, leading to a number of environmental issues.

On the other hand, over the past few years, India has developed expertise in handling a wide range of metallic wastes in an organized and safe manner. This is possible due to a combination of innovative application of knowledge, low cost of developing new processes, and adherence to environmental laws. This presentation will attempt to extend this experience to treat e waste by using the best available technology in solid processing, solution purification, and treatment of hazardous material.