

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1361
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

Ban on Single Use Plastics

1361. SHRIMATI HIMADRI SINGH;
SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL;
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MS. LOCKET CHATTERJEE;
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SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA;
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI;
DR. SANGHMITRA MAURYA;
SHRI RAVI KISHAN;
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK;
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA
SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the implementation mechanism to ban single use plastic as notified under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2021;
- (b) the details of the proposed expansion in the list of plastic items identified as banned;
- (c) whether several manufacturers have continued manufacturing banned plastic items such as straw, straw cover, cigarette packets etc.;
- (d) the various measures taken by the Government to reduce the use of plastic and other non-biodegradable materials by the industries including the health sector;
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to completely eliminate the use of plastic and the target set for zero use of plastic;
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to collect, separate and process all non-biodegradable materials from various sources in the country; and
- (g) the details of measures taken by the Government to prevent the use of plastic at the public places including beaches and parks?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (g): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, prohibiting manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items, which have low utility and high littering potential with effect from the 1st July, 2022. The

notification also prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022. Non-woven plastic carry bags of less than 60 gram per sqm (GSM) are also prohibited from 30th September 2021. Separately, as per CPCB Annual Report, 36 States/UTs have issued notifications/orders introducing regulations pertaining to complete or partial ban on plastic carry bags and/or identified single-use plastic items, over and above the PWM Rules.

In order to strengthen implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules and to implement ban on identified single use plastic items, all thirty-six States/UTs have constituted the Special Task Force for elimination of identified single use plastic items and effective plastic waste management. A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules.

Directions have been issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to E-commerce companies, leading single use plastic sellers/users, and plastic raw material manufacturers with respect to phasing out of identified single use plastic items. Separately, Customs authorities have been asked to stop the import of banned SUP items. For effective monitoring of ban on identified single use plastic items and plastic waste management in the country, the following online platforms are in operation (a) National Dashboard for monitoring of implementation of comprehensive action plan, (b) CPCB Monitoring Module for Compliance on Elimination of Single Use Plastic, and (c) CPCB Grievance Redressal App.

States and Union Territories have been asked to undertake regular enforcement drives to implement ban on identified single use plastic items and on plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred twenty microns covering fruit and vegetable markets, wholesale markets, local markets, flower vendors, units manufacturing plastic carry bags etc. Further, CPCB/SPCBs/PCCs have been asked to give specific focus on items, which are being sold as alternatives to banned SUP items but which are actually covered under SUP ban, such as paper plates covered with plastic sheets.

Pan India enforcement campaigns and regular enforcement drives have been undertaken for implementation of ban on identified single use plastic items since July 2022 by CPCB, SPCBs/PCCs and local authorities to implement ban on identified single use plastic items and on plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred twenty microns. Actions have been taken on the deviations, which include seizure of banned single use plastic items and levy of penalty. There is no proposal under consideration on expansion of single use plastic ban, at present.

During the enforcement campaign, non-compliance of the ban on identified single use plastic has been found in commercial establishments and manufacturing units including in small shops in local markets. Actions have been taken on the deviations, which include seizure of banned single use plastic items and levy of penalty.

The Plastic Waste Management Rules (PWMR), 2016, provides the statutory framework for plastic waste management in an environmentally sound manner throughout the country. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also notified the Guidelines on the Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022, on 16th February, 2022. Producers, Importers and Brand Owners of

plastic packaging are obligated to meet Extended Producer Responsibility Targets for the plastic packaging introduced by them in the market. This enables recycling/end of life disposal of the plastic packaging in an environmentally sound manner.

The Government of India provides additional central assistance to the States/UTs under the Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste management including plastic waste management. Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 has specific focus on elimination of single use plastics.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, which prescribes general and specific requirements for different food packaging materials including plastics. These regulations also specify that paper, glass, metals and plastic materials, if used for packaging food stuffs, shall be manufactured in accordance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and various national/international standards. Further, packaging material of plastic origin, is required to meet the prescribed overall migration limits and specific migration limits.

Regulatory measures have been taken by FSSAI to enable Food and Beverage industry to reduce their plastic foot print such as (i) issued guidelines for use of bamboo as food contact material; (ii) allowed serving of drinking water in paper-sealed reusable glass bottles for captive use within the hotel premises subject to certain conditions; (iii) removed the restriction on use of returnable bottles for packaging of artificially sweetened beverages; (iv) permitted the use of liquid nitrogen dosing in PET bottles during the packaging of drinking water; (v) permitted the use of other food grade packaging materials for packaging of drinking water other than plastics that are used currently; (vi) promoted bio degradable packaging as part of Eat Right India initiative and encouraged Food Business to reduce use of plastics.

The EPR guidelines on plastic packaging mandate the reuse of rigid plastic packaging, subject to the regulations as prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for food contact applications. The EPR guidelines also promote sustainable plastic packaging thus reducing the plastic foot print.

MoEF&CC organized a nationwide cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 75 identified beaches in 10 coastal states namely Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha under the Swachh-Nirmal Tat Abhiyan initiative. The Government of India undertook the "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (Clean Coast Safe Sea)" campaign, a 75-day citizen-led campaign for improving ocean health through collective action by removing 15 thousand tonnes of plastic waste from the beaches across India's 7500 km coastline.
