

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2166
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

Fake Pollution Trading Certificate

2166. SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:

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

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had unearthed more than 6,00,000 fake pollution trading certificate during audits at four Plastic recycling companies;
- (b) whether the potential number of fake certificates could be manifold as these were only four of the 2,348 plastic waste recyclers registered with CPCB ;
- (c) whether the Plastic Waste Management Rules mandate all companies that use plastic packaging to register with the CPCB and not complying with these targets can invite fines; and
- (d) the total quantity of plastic recycled and certificates worth of tonnes of plastics issued during the year 2023?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): The Central Pollution Control Board had conducted random audit of registered plastic waste processors, as per Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging. Irregularities were observed during the random audit of plastic waste processors. Accordingly, CPCB had issued directions dated 26.10.2023 to concerned SPCBs to levy Environmental compensation (EC) corresponding to the quantum of EPR certificates generated not in conformity with the stipulated requirements and also to take necessary actions as per applicable law against the violating Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs). Directions were also issued to all SPCBs / PCCs to take necessary action and ensure that the EPR certificates generated by PWPs are in accordance with the stipulated requirements and take the necessary actions as per applicable law against the violating PWPs.

The entities mandated for registration under the Guidelines on Extended producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging have been mentioned in clause 6 of the Guidelines. Environmental compensation shall be levied based upon polluter pays principle with respect to non-fulfilment of targets and obligations by producers, importers and brandowners and plastic waste processors under EPR Guidelines. Since the notification of the EPR Guidelines, as on date, certificates equivalent to processing of 6812580 tonnes of plastic packaging waste have been generated by registered plastic waste processors.
