

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 94
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

Ban on Single-use Plastics

*94: SHRI KULDEEP INDORA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented a ban on single-use plastics, prohibiting the use of plastic bags, cutlery, straws, food packaging, and similar items, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that despite this ban, such single-use plastic items continue to be widely used across the country; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure implementation of the ban along with steps for enhancing the availability of economically viable non-plastic substitutes?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 94 to be answered on 2nd December 2024 on “Ban on single-use plastics” by Shri Kuldeep Indora.

(a) to (c): The Ministry has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, vide GSR NO. 571 (E) on 12th August 2021, in the Gazette of India, prohibiting identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1 July 2022. The following identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, have been prohibited, with effect from 1st July, 2022, vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021:

- ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

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. There is complete ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Separately, as per CPCB Annual Report, 35 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.

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. Actions have been taken by concerned authorities on the deviations, which include seizure of banned single use plastic items and levy of penalty. Further, CPCB/SPCBs/PCCs also focus on items, which are sold as alternatives to banned SUP items, such as paper plates covered with plastic sheets, but which are actually banned SUP items. Pan India enforcement campaigns have been undertaken for implementation of ban on identified single use plastic items since July 2022 by CPCB, SPCBs/PCCs and local authorities. During enforcement campaigns, a total of 60,367 inspections have been carried out, of which approximately fine of Rs. 19.77 Cr was imposed and 1963.6 Tons of plastic was seized.

Further, 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.

Central Government, State Governments and local authorities have taken steps on moving towards eco-friendly alternatives. The Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology support research and development projects for alternatives to banned single-use plastic items, as per scheme guidelines. NITI Aayog has also brought out a report on alternative products and technologies to plastics and their applications. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has schemes to provide support to MSME units, which include support to such units which were earlier involved in manufacturing of banned single use plastic items for switching over to alternatives / other products.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organized the National Expo on Eco alternatives to SUPs and Start-up Conference 2022 during 26th -27th of September 2022 in Chennai. The expo provided a platform for around 150 entities who are into research and development, manufacture and sale of ecofriendly alternatives to plastics. The expo unveiled innovative products in the eco- friendly product spectrum covering carry bags, utility items, apparels, footwear, wellness products, sanitary pads, cutlery and many more. These products are made from varied raw materials such as banana leaf products, fiber, rice bran, rice husk, agricultural products, areca leaf, coir, clay, palm leaf, cloth, jute, etc.by manufacturers, Self Help Groups and many other start-up firms across India.

Further, to encourage innovation in development of alternatives to banned identified single use plastic items and digital solutions to plastic waste management, concerned Central Ministries including Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of MSME and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and CPCB, have organized Hackathons. The ban on identified single use plastic items has triggered development of innovative eco-alternatives. In keeping with the development of eco-alternatives, Bureau of Indian Standard has notified Indian Standard IS 18267 for Food Serving Utensil Made from Agri By-Products.
