

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2458
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
BAN ON PLASTIC AND POLYTHENE BAGS
Chaliha Shri Kirip

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that production and import of plastic and polythene has gone up considerably in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that use of plastic and polythene is harmful to human health;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to impose ban on production and import of those items through legislation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken to save the people from ill-effects of these items?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) As per the information furnished by the Indian Center for Plastics in the Environment, the production and import figures of plastics including polyethylene during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Production	Imports (In thousand tonnes)
2001-2002	3917	302
2002-2003	4072	438
2003-2004	4467	475

(c) Indiscriminate littering of plastics and environmentally unsound recycling practices have the potential to cause adverse impacts on environment and health.

(d) (e) & (f) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prohibited the use of recycled plastic bags for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging of foodstuffs under the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules 1999. Further, vide notification S.O No. 698 (E) dated 17th June 2003, Ministry has banned the manufacture, stocking, distribution or selling of carry bags made of virgin / recycled plastics, which are below 8 x 12 inches in size and 20 microns in thickness. To enforce strict compliance, registration of plastic carry bag manufacturing units with the State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees has also been made mandatory.