

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †3400**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

**Pollution due to plastics**

3400. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that pollution caused by plastics in the country has reached its highest levels;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to ban the use of plastic;
- (c) if not, whether Government proposes to set up plastic recycling units at various places in the country to recycle plastics; and
- (d) if not, whether there is a plan to end plastic pollution and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) conducted study in 60 major cities of India. It has been estimated that around 4059 T/day of plastic waste is generated from these cities. Extrapolating this estimate to the entire country, it is estimated that around 25,940 T/day of plastic waste is generated in India. It was also observed in a study sponsored by CPCB that heavy metals, chlorides, phthalates etc. migrate from plastic waste into the surrounding medium i.e. air & water because these particles are not chemically bound and remain present as mobile and in leachable phase.

(b) The Rules prescribe plastic bags with thickness less than 50 micron to be prohibited, however, many State Governments and local bodies have imposed ban on plastic carry bags irrespective of thickness in order to prevent littering of plastic.

(c) and (d) As per the Rules, the generators of plastic waste have been mandated to ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover segregated waste to local bodies or agencies authorised by the local bodies. The Rules further define that the plastic waste, which can be

recycled, has to be channelized to registered plastic waste recycler. The Rules also mandate the plastic producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for waste plastic collection system based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility. The Rules further mandate every local body and Gram Panchayat for development and setting up of infrastructure for segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of the plastic waste either on its own or by engaging agencies or plastic producers.

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