

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 689
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

Restriction on use of plastic in packaging

689. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of that large-scale use of plastic in packaging industry which is hazardous to the environment and human life;
- (b) action Government proposes to take to reduce use of plastic in packaging of water and food items which are difficult to be recycled their thickness is lesser than 40 micron;
- (c) whether Government proposes to put restrictions on packaging industry for not using plastic in packaging of food and water by suggesting appropriate alternative material; and
- (d) whether Government has done R&D to identify an alternative to plastic for use in packaging industry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) The Central Pollution Control Board has assigned a study to Indian Institute of Toxicological Research (IITR), Lucknow to study “Impact of Plastic Waste Disposal on Soil and Water Quality at Lucknow Dumpsites”. The soil and water quality data revealed that the heavy metals, chloride, phthalates migrate from plastic waste into the surrounding medium. The leachate can cause considerable pollution problems by contaminating the surrounding soil, ground or surface water.

(b) and (c) The Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per the provisions of Rule there is a prohibition for use of plastic bags, plastic sheet or like with thickness less than 50 microns. The Rules prohibit the use of carry bags made of recycled plastic or products made of recycled plastic for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff. Further, sachets using plastic material are prohibited for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.

(d) Government has identified Compostable plastic as one of the alternative. The Rules define norms for compostable plastic. Further, to promote the use of compostable plastic, the provision of minimum thickness of fifty microns has been made inapplicable to carry bags made up of compostable plastic, conforming IS/ISO 17088.
