

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 697
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17/12/2018

Ban on use of thermocol cutlery

697. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to consider banning the use of thermocol cutlery made from non-biodegradable material in the country;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any State Government has issued notification in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) efforts made by Government to ensure that the environment is not polluted with this kind of non-biodegradable materials in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) The Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per the provisions of Rules the Central Pollution Control Board is mandated to prepare guidelines for processing and disposal of thermoset plastic. The guidelines have been prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board. The recommended options in the guidelines for the management and disposal of thermoset polymer waste are minimization of such type of material in the first place, co-processing in the cement plant and secured landfill.

(c) Many State Governments through their own Notifications have imposed partial or full ban on use of single use plastic in their states. 15 (of total 29) States and 4 (of total 7) UTs have issued notifications/ orders introducing regulations pertaining to complete ban on plastic carry bags and/or other single-use plastic items. In addition, some States/UTs have introduced partial bans on carry bags or single-use items.

(d) The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandate the local bodies to encourage the use of plastic waste (preferably the plastic waste which cannot be further recycled) for road construction as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or energy recovery or waste to oil etc. The Rules also mention that the standards and pollution control norms specified by the prescribed authority for these technologies has to be complied with. India was the global host of The World Environment Day 2018 and it was celebrated across India on 5th June, 2018. The theme of this years WED was "Beat Plastic Pollution". India has pledged to eliminate single-use plastics by 2022.
