

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 526
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

Public consultation for plastic waste

526. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether plastic has become the major pollutant in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has issued a notification in the Gazette of India vide GSR No. 169(E) on 11th March, 2021 containing draft provisions for amending Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 for prohibiting the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified single use plastic items by 2022 and address the pollution caused by plastic, for public consultation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when the process of consultation would be completed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a): The Central Pollution Control Board in its report on “Impact of Plastic Waste Disposal on Soil and Water Quality at Lucknow Dumpsites” had found that dumping of plastic waste can deteriorate soil and underground water quality due to leaching of additives, colourants, stabilizers and fillers present in the different categories of plastic products.

(b) to (d): The Government of India has issued a draft notification in the Gazette of India vide GSR No. 169 (E) on 11th March 2021 for amending Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, inter alia prohibiting the use of identified single use plastic items by 2022, for public consultation for a period of 60 days from date of notification.

After duly considering the objections and suggestions received on the draft notification 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, by 2022.

As per the notification, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:-

- (a) ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- (b) 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 thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from fifty microns to seventy five microns with effect from 30th September, 2021, and to one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.
