

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 216
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.12.2022

Ending use of single use plastic items

216. SMT. KANTA KARDAM:

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

- (a) whether the process of ending the use of the 20 identified single use plastic Items, in a phased manner, from September 30, 2021 till date, is underway as per the scheduled programme;
- (b) whether the said list of identified single use plastic Items also covers the larger part of the single use plastic pollution in the country which is to be curbed in a phased manner and;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, prohibiting manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the following identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential with effect from 1st July, 2022:

- (i) ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- (ii) 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 notification also prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than seventy-five microns with effect from 30th September 2021, and having thickness less than thickness of one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.

(b) and (c): The single use plastic items prohibited with effect from 1st July 2022 were identified by the Expert Committee constituted by Department of Chemical and

Petrochemicals, Government of India based upon their high littering potential and low utility. Littered and unmanaged plastic waste contributes towards environmental pollution. Therefore, prohibition on such single use plastic items will help in reducing pollution caused due to littered and unmanaged plastic waste.
