

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2591
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

Safe disposal of single-use plastic

2591. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

- (a) Whether Government has not been able to put a complete ban on the single-use plastic in the country, if so, the reasons therefore;
- (b) the details of Government departments and private entities which have taken this initiative of Government seriously so far;
- (c) whether any norms or guidelines have been framed by Government to put a ban on the single-use plastic, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by Government for management and safe disposal of single-use plastic in the country ?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, have already been prohibited, with effect from 1st July, 2022, vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 notified on 12th August 2021, across the country. 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. Regular enforcement drives have been undertaken to implement ban on identified single use plastic items and on plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred twenty microns. Action have been taken on the deviations, which include seizure of banned single use plastic items and levy of penalty.

For effective monitoring of ban on identified single use plastic items and plastic waste management in the country the following online platforms are in operation (a) National Dashboard for monitoring of implementation of comprehensive action plan (b) CPCB Monitoring Module for Compliance on Elimination of Single Use Plastic, and (c) CPCB Grievance Redressal App.

Steps have been taken by concerned central ministries and state governments towards implementation of ban identified single use plastic items. Private enterprises are manufacturing eco-alternatives. Around 150 manufacturers and startups manufacturing eco-

alternatives to banned single use plastic items from across the country participated in the National Expo on eco-alternatives to banned single use plastics items and Conference of Startups -2022 held in Chennai on 26-27th September 2022. Further, 201 Manufacturers/Sellers of compostable plastics have been certified by CPCB and the list is available on the website of CPCB.

(d) The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, provide the statutory framework for environmentally sound management and disposal of plastic waste including waste generated from single use plastic. The Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, on 16th February 2022. The Guidelines stipulate mandatory targets on EPR, recycling of plastic packaging waste, reuse of rigid plastic packaging and use of recycled plastic content. The guidelines provide for moving towards sustainable plastic packaging and reducing the plastic foot print of plastic packaging. The Government of India also provides additional central assistance to the States/UTs under the Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste management including plastic waste management, in urban and rural areas of the country, as per scheme guidelines.
