

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 529
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Bringing behavioural shift in the usage, handling and recycling of used plastic

529. SMT. KANTA KARDAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to bring a behavioural shift in the usage, handling and recycling of used plastic;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives that are proposed to be taken by Government to educate the youth on plastic recycling, highlight the benefits of current recycling programmes, and introduce new programmes; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, provide the statutory framework for plastic waste management in the country. The rules mandate urban local bodies to channelize plastic waste which can be recycled to registered plastic waste recycler. Behavioural change of waste generators towards source segregation of solid waste including plastic waste and not littering solid waste is key for environmentally sound management of plastic waste.

The Ministry has already notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging 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 also mandate registration of obligated entities viz. Producers, Importers and Brand owners (PIBOs) and Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) on the centralized online EPR portal for plastic packaging. The EPR target of PIBOs are to be fulfilled by procuring EPR certificates from registered PWPSs after processing of plastic packaging waste.

The implementation of extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging by PIBOs will lead to further development of the waste management sector covering collection, segregation, processing of plastic packaging waste. As per centralized online EPR portal for plastic packaging, around 31000 PIBOs and 2300 PWPs have been registered. As per centralized online EPR portal for plastic packaging, EPR certificates of around 4.6 million tonnes have been generated by registered PWPs against which EPR certificates of around 3.4 million tonnes have been procured by PIBOs to fulfill EPR obligations as on date.

The Central Government, respective State Government and other stakeholders have been sensitizing the citizens at large including youth regarding the ill effects of plastic and the need for its proper collection, segregation and recycling.
