

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2424
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2024

PLASTIC PARK SCHEME

2424: SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) in what manner the Plastic Park Scheme can be leveraged to promote a circular economy in the plastic industry of the country and the initiatives that can be taken to encourage recycling and upcycling;
- (b) the innovative technologies that can be integrated into plastic parks to minimize environmental impacts and maximize efficiency and the manner in which these technologies can be incentivized; and
- (c) the manner in which Plastic Park Scheme can be aligned with global sustainability standards and benchmarks and the existing opportunities for international collaboration and trade?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): The Scheme for Setting up of Plastic Parks promotes setting up of need-based Plastic Parks with requisite infrastructure and enabling common facilities. The objective is to consolidate and synergize the capacities of downstream plastic processing industry to help increase investment, production and export in the sector as well as generate employment. Under the Scheme, common infrastructure for the industrial units is provided including effluent treatment plant, solid/ hazardous waste management, facilities for plastic recycling, incinerator etc. Some of the Plastic Parks have also established in-house recycling sheds for recycling of plastic waste.

The adoption of modern recycling technologies such as chemical recycling, biodegradation, and mechanical recycling, as well as promotion of the use of biodegradable plastics reduces waste generation and minimizes environmental impact. Waste-to-energy facilities help to convert non-recyclable plastic waste into energy.

The Government of India has taken several steps to ensure that the development of the plastic industry is environmentally sustainable and aligned with global sustainability standards. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations for plastic packaging mandate targets for minimum level of reuse, recycling and use of recycled content. This ensures accountability for waste collection, recycling, and reuse. Certain single-use plastics have been banned, with a focus on reducing plastic waste. The regulations also mandate to utilize minimum amount of recycled material in packaging products. The Hazardous Waste Management Rules seek to ensure proper disposal of hazardous chemicals and promote waste minimization and resource recovery.

The Government promotes the adoption of circular economy principles in the plastic industry, including recycling and the use of biodegradable alternatives. In order to promote the latest technologies and products for circular economy, the Department supports and encourages industry in organizing discussions and exhibitions to showcase the latest technologies and machinery for waste management, recycling and up-cycling as well as the innovative products made from recycled material. The Department also supports and encourages the industry to adopt environmentally sound production and circular economy approaches. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals implements the Scheme for setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoEs).The CoEs undertake research in development of biodegradable and bio-based chemicals and polymers for various applications.

India engages with international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to enable compliance with global sustainability standards. Further, India actively participates in meetings of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) which formulates international standards for plastic products.
