

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2123
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

Plastic pollution crisis

2123. SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

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

- (a) whether plastic pollution is so ubiquitous that it is found in clouds, deepest ocean trenches and even in human breast milk;
- (b) whether the world has generated 460 million tons of plastic in 2020 and is going to generate three times more by 2060;
- (c) whether the Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations to address plastic pollution crisis was held in Busan, South Korea;
- (d) if so, details of negotiations, suggestions made by India and the outcome of the meeting; and
- (e) the contentious issues raised by member countries and the strategy proposed to address the concerns?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b): The United Nations Environment Assembly resolution number 5/14 notes that plastic pollution represent a serious environmental problem at a global scale. In order to reduce pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had notified prohibition on identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021 notified on 12th August 2021. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, on 16th February, 2022.

The reports published on global plastic production vary in their assessments on account of data sources and methodologies used for making such assessments. Further, there are also uncertainties associated with making long term projections on the growth in plastic production over years.

(c) to (e): The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment, was held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 25th November 2024 to 1st December 2024. The negotiations at INC-5 could not reach agreement on the commitments related to plastic production, consumption and plastic waste. The Indian delegation has inter alia emphasized that any commitments under the proposed instrument should address plastic pollution as agreed to in the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, based upon the Rio Principles and national circumstances and capabilities of the countries.
