

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 544
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

Implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rule, 2016

544. SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken specific measures to curb the rising problem of plastic waste generated in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and its subsequent amendments; and
- (c) whether Government has set any targets or introduced new initiatives to promote recycling and reduce single-use plastics at the local body and industrial levels?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): In order to reduce pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has prohibited identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1 July, 2022. The notification also prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022. Non-woven plastic carry bags of less than 60 gram per sqm (GSM) are also prohibited from 30th September 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. Since 2022, one hundred and sixty five lakh tonnes of plastic packaging waste has been recycled. The implementation of ban on identified single use plastic items coupled with extended producer

responsibility on plastic packaging will reduce pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste.

The following steps have been taken to strengthen implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and to implement ban on identified Single Use Plastic items:

(i) All thirty-six States/UTs have constituted the Special Task Force under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary / Administrator for elimination of identified single use Plastic items and effective plastic waste management. A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

(ii) Directions have been issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for setting up of institutional mechanism for enforcement of provisions of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 to all State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees. Directions have also been issued to E-commerce companies, leading Single Use Plastic sellers/users, and plastic raw material manufacturers with respect to phasing out of identified single use plastic items. Separately, custom authorities have been asked to stop the import of banned SUP items.

(iii) 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 comprehensive action plan implementation, (b) CPCB Monitoring Module for Compliance on Elimination of Single Use Plastic, and (c) CPCB Grievance Redressal App.

(iv) States and Union Territories have been asked to undertake regular enforcement drives to implement ban on identified single use plastic items and on plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred twenty microns covering fruit and vegetable markets, wholesale markets, local markets, flower vendors, units manufacturing plastic carry bags etc. Actions have been taken by concerned authorities on the deviations, which include seizure of banned single use plastic items and levy of penalty. As per details provided by SPCB/PCC and details available at SUP compliance monitoring portal, a total of 8,61,740 inspections have been conducted and 1985 tonnes of banned single use plastic items have been seized and a total of Rs. 19.82 crores of fine has been levied, since July, 2022.

(v) Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), central assistance is provided inter alia for setting up of waste processing facilities such as material recovery facilities (MRFs), transfer stations, Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) processing facilities, plastic waste processing facilities as per scheme guidelines. Additional Central assistance is also provided under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen phase II for establishment of Plastic Waste Management Units in rural areas.

(vi) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, celebrated World Environment Day 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 5th June 2025, with the slogan 'One Nation, One Mission: End Plastic Pollution'. As part of one month long pre-campaign activities undertaken before World Environment Day 2025, around 69,000 events were organized in which around 21 lakh people participated across the country. The National Plastic Pollution Reduction Campaign (NPPRC) was also launched for the period 5th June to 31st October 2025. The Campaign included activities to reduce plastic pollution in urban and rural areas under Swachhta Hi Sewa programme. The activities also included focus on reducing use of avoidable single use plastics in government offices especially during Special Campaign 5.0.

(c) The Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging notified vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022 on 16th February 2022, mandate minimum level of recycling (excluding end of life disposal), on Producers, Importers and Brand owners (PIBOs) as given below:

Minimum level of recycling (excluding end of life disposal) of plastic packaging waste

(% of Extended Producer Responsibility Target)

Plastic Packaging Category	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28 onwards
Category I	50	60	70	80
Category II	30	40	50	60
Category III	30	40	50	60
Category IV	50	60	70	80

The EPR Guidelines also prescribe mandatory targets for use of recycled plastic content on Producers, Importers and Brand owners (PIBOs) as given below:

Mandatory use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging

(% of plastic packaging manufactured/imported for the year)

Plastic Packaging Category	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28 onwards
Category I	50	60	70	80
Category II	30	40	50	60
Category III	30	40	50	60
Category IV	50	60	70	80

The EPR Guidelines also prescribe mandatory targets for reuse of rigid plastic packaging by Brand owners as given below. The reuse of rigid plastic packaging in food contact applications is subject to regulation of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

	Target (as percentage of rigid plastic packaging in products sold annually)			
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29 and onwards
Rigid plastic packaging with volume or weight equal more than 0.9 lt. or kg. but less than 4.9 lt. or kg. as the case may be	10	15	20	25
Rigid plastic packaging with volume or weight equal more than 0.9 lt. or kg. but less than 4.9 lt. or kg. as the case may be	70	75	80	85

Further, the ban on identified single use plastic items has triggered development of innovative eco-alternatives. Central Government, State Governments and local authorities have taken steps on moving towards eco-friendly alternatives. Based upon the information provided by State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board have prepared a “Compendium of Manufacturers / Sellers of Eco-alternatives to Banned Single Use Plastic Items”, which was launched on World Environment Day, 2025. The compendium provides details of nearly 1000 units spread across the country. In keeping with the development of eco-alternatives, Bureau of Indian Standard had earlier notified Indian Standard IS 18267 for Food Serving Utensil Made from Agri By-Products.
