

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3119
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

Plastic waste management

3119. SHRI. HARSH MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) the rules/guidelines presently in force for plastic waste management in the country and the status of their effective implementation;
- (b) the details of processes being adopted for collection, segregation, processing and recycling of plastic waste and the role of States/local bodies therein;
- (c) the status of compliance with the ban on single-use plastic and the penal action taken so far in cases of violations; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to promote recycling and innovation for utilization of plastic waste in energy generation, road construction and other applications

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, provide the statutory framework for environmentally sound management of plastic waste across the country. The Plastic Waste Management Rules inter alia mandate local bodies and gram panchayats operationalize and coordinate plastic waste management system, which includes collection, segregation, storage, transportation, channelization for processing and disposal of plastic waste in the areas under their jurisdiction. The rules also mandate Producers, Importers and Brand Owners for fulfilling Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging introduced by them in the market. Guidelines have also been issued under Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste management including plastic waste management for urban and rural areas of the country. 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. 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.

(c): In order to reduce pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has already prohibited identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1 July, 2022. 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 8,61,908 inspections have been conducted and 1989 tonnes of banned single use plastic items have been seized and a total of Rs. 19.83 crores of fine has been levied, since July, 2022.

(d): The Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging stipulate mandatory targets on Producers, Importers and Brand owners (PIBOs) for 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. As per EPR Guidelines, PIBOs are mandated to channelize only those plastics, which cannot be recycled for end of life disposal such as road construction, waste to energy, waste to oil, as per relevant guidelines issued by Indian Road Congress or Central Pollution Control Board from time to time.
