

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2984
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

Plastic waste management

2984. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

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

- (a) the status of plastic waste generation, collection, processing, recycling and disposal across the country and the steps being taken to strengthen plastic waste management systems;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the practice of open burning of plastic waste by residents, particularly in ecologically fragile areas including the Himalayan region and the steps being taken to address it; and
- (c) the measures being taken to enforce compliance against open burning of plastic waste and ensure effective implementation of plastic waste management regulations?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, provide the statutory framework for environmentally sound management of plastic waste in the country. As per the afore-mentioned rules, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), compiles and publishes the annual report on implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules based upon the information provided by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), which includes State/UT wise details of plastic waste generation and processing in the country. The annual reports are available on CPCB website: <https://cpcb.gov.in/status-of-implementation-of-plastic-waste/>.

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. 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 31st December, 2022.

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 Guidelines stipulate mandatory targets on EPR, 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 footprint. Since 2022, nearly 233 lakh tonnes of plastic packaging waste has been processed under EPR Guidelines on plastic

packaging. The implementation of EPR on plastic packaging further strengthens the plastic waste management system in the country.

(b) & (c): As per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats are mandated to ensure that open burning of plastic waste does not take place. Under the Rules, the Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats are the Prescribed Authorities for enforcement of the provisions of these Rules relating to waste management by the waste generator, restriction or prohibition on use of plastic carry bags, plastic sheets or like, covers made of plastic sheets and plastic packaging and ban on identified single use plastic items. The Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats have, inter alia, been mandated to report the total number of violations with respect to burning of plastic waste in their Annual Report on plastic waste management submitted to the concerned SPCB/PCC under the Rules. Vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified on 31st March 2026, the Chief Secretary of State/UT heads the State Level Monitoring Committee mandated for effective monitoring of implementation of these Rules in the concerned State/UT.
