

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1954
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.12.2017

Plastic Waste in Rural Areas

1954. DR. ANSHUL VERMA:

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

- (a) whether there is indiscriminate use of non-degradable plastic in packaging of goods in rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is no system of rag-picking in rural areas and hence disposal of polythene bags is a real problem in implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in rural areas; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government intends to deal with issue of plastic waste in rural areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) The Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Rules have specified criteria for the use of carry bags, packaging material for packaging of foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and drinking water etc. The thickness of the plastic bags, sheets etc has also been prescribed. Further, the provision of thickness is not applicable to carry bags made up of compostable plastic. However, the manufacturers or seller of compostable plastic carry bags has to obtain a certificate from the Central Pollution Control Board before marketing or selling. The Rules do not make distinction between rural areas and urban areas regarding use of non – biodegradable plastic packaging.

(b) and (c) The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandate every gram panchayat to set up, operationalise and co-ordinate management of plastic waste in the rural area under their jurisdiction. The gram panchayats are entrusted the responsibility of segregation, collection, storage transportation of plastic waste and channelization of recyclable plastic waste fraction to recyclers and creating awareness among all stakeholders about their responsibilities and to ensure that open burning of plastic waste does not take place.
