

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2825
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2018

Pollution due to Plastic in Oceans

2825. SHRI P. KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether there is large scale pollution due to plastic in oceans and their beaches, which is affecting the marine life and environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the remedial measures the Government proposes to take in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) The volume of plastic produced in the world has increased significantly and an increasing amount of plastic litter ends up in waterways and the ocean. Globally, an estimated 20 million tons of plastic enters the ocean each year including Indian coasts. Plastic litter adversely impacts marine life and environment. Plastic litter is hazardous to marine environment because plastics are durable, buoyant, waterproof, indigestible, and non-biodegradable. Animals at all levels of the food chain consume plastic. Plastic debris injures and kills fish, seabirds and marine mammals.

(c) As per Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) notification 2011, dumping of solid waste including plastic in CRZ areas is prohibited. The Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per the provisions of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the generators of waste have been mandated to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter plastic waste, ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover segregated waste to local bodies or agencies authorised by the local bodies. The Rules have also mandated the responsibilities of local bodies, gram panchayats, waste generators, retailers and street vendors to manage the plastic waste. The Rules mandate the producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for waste collection system based on Extended Producer Responsibility. CPCB has also issued guidelines for utilization of plastic waste in road construction, cement kilns and usage as liquid RDF (oil).
