

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2827**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2018

**Plastic Free Zones**

2827. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently declared all the protected areas as 'Plastic Free Zones' in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the zones declared, State-wise;
- (c) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to make these zones as 'plastic free zones' in reality;
- (d) whether the Government is also considering any rehabilitation or alternative source of income generating businesses/ trades for the people who involved in these plastic related industries/trade in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry issued advisory in June, 2017 to all Chief Wildlife Wardens and Principal Secretaries (Forests) of States/UTs to celebrate 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June of every year as Swacchta Pakhwada for safeguarding the environment and to maintain sanitation and cleanliness in and around all Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries). Along with the measures such as cleanliness drive, sanitization, awareness generation campaign taking green pledge by local people, it was directed to prohibit the usage of plastic and polythene bags inside all protected areas and all protected areas to be made plastic free zone by 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2018.

Moreover India was the global host for "World Environment Day – WED 2018" celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. During this celebration, the Ministry launched pan-India plastic clean-up drive in public areas, national parks, forests reserves, beaches, rivers etc..

(d) and (e) The Central Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per the Rules, the generators of waste have been mandated to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter the 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 mandate the producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for waste collection system based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility.

CPCB has also issued guidelines for utilization of plastic waste in road construction, cement kilns and usage as liquid RDF (oil). Further, the local bodies have been mandated to engage civil societies and waste picker for segregation, collection and overall management of plastic waste. As per the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, the local authorities and /gram Panchayats shall establish a system to recognise organisation of waste pickers or informal waste collector and Self Help Groups for management of waste.

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