

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4064
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2019

Ban on Plastics

4064. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:
SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is determined to ban plastic use in India by 2022, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to adopt a uniform policy applicable to all States and UTs and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that microbeads often used in cosmetic and detergent products are made of plastic and are not bio-degradable/soluble in the water and many countries have banned it and Bureau of Indian Standards has called them toxic for the environment;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is planning to ban use of plastic microbeads in such products, following the example of UK, US and other countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) India was the global host of The World Environment Day 2018 (WED) and the theme for WED was “Beat Plastic Pollution”. A State Environment Ministers Conference was also organized on 4th June, 2018 and it also adopted a resolution to make efforts to reduce the use of single use plastic in India.

Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has written letters to the offices under its own administrative control, regional offices of the Ministry, offices of Central Government and its departments, major PSUs, corporates, institutes etc to prohibit single-use plastic products including water bottles, take away coffee cups, lunch wrapped in disposable plastic packaging, plastic bags, disposable food containers, plates and containers made of polystyrene foam, plastic straws etc in their offices. The effort is to phase out single use plastic by 2022 by creating awareness among all stakeholders.

(b) The Government in suppression of the earlier Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 has notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Rules are uniformly applicable to all the States. However, some State Governments under their own statutory powers have imposed more stringent norms. Accordingly, 22 States/UTs have

imposed ban on use, stock & sale of plastic carrybags, cups, glasses, plates, spoons, straws, thermocol products.

(c) to (e) Schedule S to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 stipulates that cosmetics in finished form shall conform to the specifications laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) from time to time. The Indian Standard, IS 4707 (Part 2) published by BIS does not restrict use of microbeads in formulation of cosmetic products. The Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 112/2016 has directed the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization to test and analyse the products containing microbeads in its laboratories and submit its report.
