

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 799
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022

799. SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:

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

- (a) the salient features of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to phase out all other plastic items like milk, chips, bread etc. in addition to all plastic items that are already banned by the Government from 1st July, 2022;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time limit fixed for phasing out all plastic items to achieve the goal of ban on plastic; and
- (e) the details of efforts being made by the Government to spread awareness among people?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a): There is no Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, on 16th February 2022. The key highlights of the Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) on plastic packaging notified on 16th February 2022 are (i) mandatory registration of Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) and Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) through centralized online portal, (ii) coverage of four categories of plastic packaging viz. rigid packaging, flexible packaging, multi-layered plastic packaging, and compostable plastic packaging, (iii) clearly defined targets for EPR, (iv) mandatory targets for reuse of rigid plastic packaging, minimum level of recycling of plastic waste and use of recycled plastic content in plastic packaging, (v) centralized online portal to support implementation of EPR, (vi) provision sale and purchase of surplus EPR certificates, (vii) levy of environmental compensation for non-fulfilment of EPR obligations, (viii) provision for verification, audit and monitoring of obligated entities.

(b) to (d): The Ministry had notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, prohibiting manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of

the following identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential with effect from 1st July, 2022:

- (i) ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- (ii) plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

The prohibited items have been identified based upon recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India. The plastic packaging for milk, chips, bread etc. is covered under the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging. As per the Guidelines, the producers, importers and brand owners introducing plastic packaging in the market are mandated to undertake EPR for environmentally sound management of plastic packaging waste.

(e) The Union Government through various central ministries and government agencies has been involved in generating public awareness on plastic wastemanagement and elimination of single-use plastics. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had launched Prakriti – Mascot on 5th April 2022. Three videos of PRAKRITI have been made on elimination of single use plastics. These videos have been translated in 19 languages and have been shared with States and UTs for further dissemination. A dedicated webpage with all awareness material has been created for making available all information materials and videos for wider dissemination and use by stakeholders. An E-Pledge on Swachh Bharat Harit Bharat Green Pledge has been launched on My Gov Platform for generating public movement amongst citizens on 5th April 2022. A one month long pan India awareness campaign was organized from 1st July 2022 along with States and Union Territories. A National Expo on eco-alternatives to banned single use plastics items and Conference of Startups - 2022 were organized jointly with Government of Tamil Nadu in Chennai on 26-27th September 2022.
