

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION No. 43**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

**Plastic Pollution**

\*43. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:  
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

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

- (a) whether plastic pollution is a threat to human health and environment with scientific reports having proved that plastic is embedded throughout the food chain and if so, the facts thereof;
- (b) whether currently, more than 10,000 chemicals (additives) are used to manufacture plastics with close to one-fourth of the chemicals being proven to have adverse effects on human health and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released a report titled 'The Plastic Life-cycle November, 2022;
- (d) if so, the details of the facts revealed by the reports released by CSE; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereon and corrective measures taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 43 to be answered on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 on “Plastic Pollution” by Dr. Pritam Gopinathrao Munde, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Hon’ble Members of Parliament.**

(a) &(b):The Central Pollution Control Board conducted a study ‘Impact of Plastic Waste Disposal on soil and water quality at Lucknow dumpsites’. It was observed in the study that dumping of plastic waste may deteriorate soil and underground water quality due to leaching of additives, colours, stabilizers and fillers present in different categories of plastic products.Additive chemicals and microplastics released from unmanaged and littered plastic waste can cause pollution of environment. Scientific reports on human health risk associated with additive chemicals and microplastics have variable conclusions. Some studies have estimated microplastics in different environment samples, biota and/or human tissue. Long term studies are required at relevant exposure levels to understand potential negative impacts on human health and to reach at conclusive findings.

(c)& (d):The report on “Plastic Life-cycle” prepared by an NGO - Centre for Science and Environment, was released by them in November 2022 and is available in public domain. The report covers different stages of plastics from production, consumption, waste generation and management including recycling.

(e) Identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, have already been prohibited, with effect from 1st July, 2022, vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 notified on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.The notification also prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than seventy-five microns with effect from 30th September 2021, and having thickness less than thickness of one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, on 16th February 2022. The Guidelines stipulate mandatory targets on EPR, recycling of plastic packaging waste, reuse of rigid plastic packaging and use of recycled plastic content. The guidelines provide for moving towards sustainable plastic packaging and reducing the plastic foot print. The implementation of ban on identified single use plastic items coupled with extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging will reduce pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste.

The following steps have been taken to strengthen implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and to implement ban on identified single use plastic items:

(i) All thirty-six States/UTs have constituted the Special Task Force under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary / Administrator for elimination of identified single use plastic items and effective plastic waste management. A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. Four meetings of the National Task Force have been held.

(ii) Twenty Four State /UT Governments and concerned Central Ministries/Departments have already developed a comprehensive action plan for elimination of single use plastic and implement it in a time bound manner.

(iii) Directions have been issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for setting up of institutional mechanism for enforcement of provisions of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 to all State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees. Directions have also been issued to E-commerce companies, leading single use plastic sellers/users, and plastic raw material manufacturers with respect to phasing out of identified single use plastic items. Separately, custom authorities have been asked to stop the import of banned SUP items

(iv) For effective monitoring of ban on identified single use plastic items and plastic waste management in the country the following online platforms are in operation (a) National Dashboard on for monitoring of comprehensive action plan implementation, (b) CPCB Monitoring Module for Compliance on Elimination of Single Use Plastic, and (c) CPCB Grievance Redressal App.

(v) Regular enforcement drives have been undertaken by CPCB, SPCBs/PCCs to implement ban on identified single use plastic items and on plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred twenty microns.

(vi) In order to provide assistance to MSME enterprises transitioning away from single use plastic items to eco-alternatives, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has made provisions in their ongoing schemes. A National Expo on eco-alternatives to banned single use plastics items and Conference of Startups - 2022 was organized jointly with Government of Tamil Nadu in Chennai on 26-27th September 2022 to raise awareness on alternatives. Awareness generation and capacity building programmes have been organized for elimination of single use plastics.

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