

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Waste Management at Pilgrimage Sites

4195. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Green Tribunal have found serious failure in the waste management across the pilgrimage tracks of Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib, Yamunotri and Gomukh and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the major pilgrimage sites in the country do not have a proper waste management system leading to wide prevalence of solid garbage and plastic waste etc. in these places;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government intend to make some regulatory interventions, issue necessary guidelines and protocols and take other measures to ensure better cleanliness and environment friendly maintenance of the various pilgrimage sites 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
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a): In the order dated 8th February 2023, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has directed to take effective remedial measures in the matter related to environmental norms along the pilgrim tracks of Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib, Yamunotri and Gomukh pilgrimage centres and has directed setting up of joint committee headed by Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand to take stock of the situation and prepare a road map. The action plan so developed inter alia may include taking measures consistent with the carrying capacity of the area. The committee may also review and plan infrastructure for waste management, compliance of environment norms including Water Act, Air Act and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 etc. Waste processing/management facilities for bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste may be set up at appropriate locations. The execution of the action plan may be duly monitored.

(b) to (e): The local authorities and village panchayats are mandated to undertake solid waste and plastic waste management as per Solid Waste Management Rules and Plastic Waste Management Rules. The local authorities and village panchayats are to develop solid waste management plans as per State policy and strategy in the areas under their jurisdiction

including pilgrimage sites, if any. The State Pollution Control Board / Pollution Control Committees are mandated to enforce provisions of the rules. Under the Solid Waste Management and Plastic Waste Management Rules, state level committees need monitor implementation of the rules. Additional central assistance is provided under Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste management including plastic waste management in urban and rural areas, as per scheme guidelines. Various manuals, advisories and guidelines have been brought out covering various aspects solid waste and plastic waste management.
