

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 491**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023**

**Reusable, Recyclable or Compostable Packaging**

491. SHRI PARTHIBAN S.R.:

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

- (a) whether the Government has given companies a target to use only reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging;
- (b) if so, the time limit fixed in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has invested in recycling infrastructure for plastics and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the impact of banning single use plastic on industries that are manufacturing single use plastic products;
- (e) whether the Ministry has sent any proposal to the Minister of Finance or the GST Council to reduce GST on raw materials used for manufacturing alternatives to single use plastic products; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Ministry will send such a proposal now?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging on 16th February 2022. The Guidelines stipulates mandatory targets on producers, importers and brand owners for reuse of rigid plastic packaging, minimum level of recycling of plastic packaging waste and minimum use of recycled plastic content in plastic packaging. The year-wise target for minimum level of recycling of plastic waste across different categories of plastic packaging including compostable packaging is given below:

Year	Target (% of Extended Producer Responsibility)
2024-25	30-50
2025-26	40-60
2026-27	50-70
2027-28 onwards	60-80

The EPR target for plastic packaging made from compostable plastic is 100 % from 2023-24.

The target for reuse of rigid plastic packaging by Brand Owners is given in table below. The reuse of rigid plastic packaging in food contact applications is subject to regulation of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

	Target (as percentage of rigid plastic packaging in products sold annually)			
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29 and onwards
Rigid plastic packaging with volume or weight equal more than 0.9 lt. or kg. but less than 4.9 lt. or kg. as the case may be	10	15	20	25
Rigid plastic packaging with volume or weight equal more than 0.9 lt. or kg. but less than 4.9 lt. or kg. as the case may be	70	75	80	85

The objective of enforceable obligations of minimum level of recycling of plastic packaging waste under Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility is to strengthen circular economy of plastic packaging waste and development of recycling infrastructure for plastic packaging waste. Schemes of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India, are available for technical and financial assistance for development of recycling infrastructure for plastic waste, as per scheme guidelines.

(d) to (f): The prohibition on identified single use plastic items was notified on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and it came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Transition time was provided to units manufacturing banned single use plastic to shift to alternatives. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has schemes to provide support to MSME units, which include support to such units earlier involved in manufacturing of banned single use plastic items for switching over to alternatives / other products. These schemes provide support in respect of technology upgradation, creating awareness, marketing support, infrastructural support, as per scheme guidelines. The manufacturing of alternatives will create new job opportunities and business models. GST Council secretariat has been suggested to adjust the GST rates in order to increase adoption of alternatives to banned single use items.

\*\*\*\*\*

