

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1694
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

Extended Producer Responsibility

1694. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:
SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether any law has been proposed for the same;
- (c) the measures being taken to ensure effective enforcement and implementation of EPR rules;
- (d) whether the Government is supporting the development of infrastructure and systems necessary for EPR facility or has any plans for the same and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of the guidelines for EPR on plastic packaging;
- (f) whether the fulfillment of category-wise EPR targets by producers, importers and brand owners will lead to environmentally sound management of multi-layered plastic usage and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) whether providing and adopting of EPR guidelines is the way forward in sustainable packaging which has a footprint and high recyclability and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, has already notified rules mandating Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for the following four categories of wastes: (i) plastic packaging waste, (ii) battery waste, (iii) e-waste and (iv) waste tyre. The rules mandate EPR targets for producers, importers, and brand owners along with modalities for fulfilment of EPR obligations. Separate centralized online portal for each waste category will ensure ease of doing business along with transparency and accountability. The implementation of EPR will further strengthening of waste management infrastructure following principles of circular economy.

(e) to (g): The Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging were notified on 16th February 2022. The salient feature of the Guidelines are as follows: (i) mandatory registration of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs) & Plastic Waste

Processors (PWPs) through centralized online EPR portal on plastic packaging, (ii) coverage of four categories of plastic packaging – rigid plastic packaging; flexible plastic packaging including multi-layered plastic; multi-layered plastic packaging (at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic); and compostable plastic, (iii) mandatory targets for reuse of rigid plastic packaging, recycling & use of recycled plastic content in plastic packaging, (iv) provision of sale & purchase of surplus EPR certificates, (v) levy of environmental compensation for non-fulfilment of EPR obligations, (vi) provision for verification, audit and monitoring of obligated entities.

The fulfilment of quantitative category-wise EPR target related to flexible plastic packaging which includes multi-layered plastic as well as multi-layered plastic packaging (at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic), as per EPR Guidelines, will lead to environmentally sound management of such plastic packaging waste. Further, the EPR Guidelines promote moving towards sustainable plastic packaging.
