

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1131**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2019**

**Single-use Plastic**

1131. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided not to implement a blanket ban on single-use of plastic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the time-frame to phase out single-use plastic from the country;
- (c) whether the Government is implementing the ban in a phased manner and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether cigarette packs that come with plastic wrapping have not been brought under the gamut of banned items; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

(a) to (e) The Ministry has issued “Standard Guidelines on Single-use Plastics” to all Ministries under the Government of India and to all States/UTs for extensive implementation in respective offices and in the States. The Guidelines suggest about the actions to be taken by the State/UT Governments for minimization of usage of Single-use Plastics. The focus of the Government is to first generate awareness among the public and all stakeholders about the challenges of plastic pollution and later regulatory provisions may follow.

Considering the high environmental cost associated with the management of Single-use plastics, particularly the adverse effect on marine environment, and the need for a definitive response supplementing the actions undertaken by various States/UTs to combat Single-use plastic pollution, Hon’ble Prime Minister has announced India’s pledge to phase out Single-use plastic by 2022.

On the call of Hon’ble Prime Minister, a three-phase campaign “Swachhta Hi Sewa” (SHS) was launched from 11th Sep, 2019, which ended on Diwali i.e. 27th October 2019. This campaign inter-alia focused on awareness, advocacy, collection and safe disposal of littered plastic.

Under the campaign, all stakeholders i.e. general public, students, industry, governments and local bodies came together and collected waste plastic from houses, streets,

public places like parks, beaches, markets, religious and tourist places etc. Urban Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats, Government organisations and others made arrangements to deposit the collected plastic waste at designated locations for recycling. Start-ups, technical bodies and corporates came forward with their plans to recycle the collected waste. Eventual goal of the campaign was that the plastic waste is not dumped on land or into water but is recycled in environmentally sound manner. The campaign has achieved its near-term goal of creating awareness on the menace of plastic pollution.

As reported by States, about 13,829 tonnes of plastic waste was collected and sent for environmentally sound recycling/disposal and about 1.23 lakh awareness /shramdaan activities were undertaken all over the country. The local bodies and States have set up systems emerged out of campaign for collection and safe disposal of such waste.

As per the provisions of Rules, there is a prohibition for use of plastic bags, plastic sheet or like with thickness less than 50 microns. Further, sachets using plastic material are prohibited for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.

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