

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3206
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019

Plastic Packaging

3206. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to address the environmental hazards created by plastic packaging materials;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that mountain fills of plastic waste are now created in almost all urban and rural areas leading to sub-urban plastic landfills;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to eliminate such landfills;
- (d) whether the Government has provided financial assistance to State Governments including Kerala for recycling and disposal of plastic and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has provided any substitute material for the packaging sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken to penalise defaulters who do not adhere to the plastic packaging norms of the Government?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per the Rules, the generators of waste, including plastic packaging waste, have been mandated to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter the plastic waste, ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover segregated waste to local bodies or agencies authorized by the local bodies. The rules also mandate the responsibilities of local bodies, gram panchayats, waste generators, retailers and street vendors to manage plastic waste. The rules mandate the producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for waste collection system based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility.

(b) and (c) It is estimated that around 25,940 Tonne per day of plastic waste is generated in the country, out of which about 60% waste is collected and recycled by the plastic recycling industries, therefore, there is no separate landfill area occupied by the plastic waste. However, the mixed municipal solid waste reaching the dumping sites contains plastic as well. With regard to existing landfill sites, the Rules provide criteria for closure and rehabilitation of old dumps. The solid waste dumps which have reached their full capacity have to be closed and rehabilitated by reducing the waste by bio mining and waste processing followed by placement of residues in new landfills or capping.

In order to reduce and eliminate landfills, 94.77% of door-to-door collection of waste and

71.97% of source segregation of waste has been achieved by the Urban Local Bodies across the country. Plastic including plastic packaging segregated in such manner are given for safe disposal that inter-alia includes recycling, co-processing in cement plants, road construction etc.

(d) to (f) MoHUA is implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) (SBM-U) project under which various projects have been taken up. Under this programme during the mission period of 2014-15 to 2019-20, an allocation of Rs. 7424.24 Cr has been made for Solid Waste Management Projects, which also include plastic waste. An amount of Rs 5024.45 Cr has been released to the State Governments till November, 2019. No proposal from the State Government of Kerala is pending with the Union Government.

The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 defines the norms for compostable plastic as an ecologically sustainable and green alternatives of plastics. The provision of thickness is not applicable to carry bags made up of compostable plastic. However, the compostable plastics has to conform to the Indian Standard: IS 17088:2008 titled as Specifications for Compostable Plastics. Certificate has been granted to 53 compostable plastic bags manufacturers/sellers till now.
