

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1499
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11-02-2020

Single-use Plastics

1499. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently launched any policy to ban and reduce Single Use Plastics in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has set up any committee to look into the issue of Single Use Plastics in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof; and
- (d) the number of items that would fall under the category of Single use plastics and the names of these items?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) and (d) In order to prevent plastic pollution in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified, the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2016. As per the provisions of the Rules, plastic carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic less than fifty microns in thickness have been prohibited. Sachets using plastic materials for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala have also been prohibited.

However, considering the high environmental cost associated with the use of Single-use plastic, particularly the adverse effect on soil, water bodies and on marine environment, Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced India's pledge to phase out Single-use plastic by 2022.

Many States/UTs through their own notifications have imposed partial or complete prohibition on the use of plastic carry bags/single use plastic. 29 States/UTs have issued notifications/orders introducing regulations pertaining to complete or partial ban on plastic carry bags and/or other single-use plastic items. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has also issued "Standard Guidelines on Single Use Plastic" with suggestions on different set of actions for State/UT Governments for minimisation of Single-use plastic.

(b) and (c) The Expert Committee consisting of policy makers, scientists, academicians & researchers in the field of plastics and allied materials was constituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, to define 'Single Use Plastics' in the country. The report on 'Single Use Plastics' was submitted in September, 2019 to the administrative Department. The approved report has been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation for suitable action.
