

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2562
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Pollution in Ocean by Plastic Waste

2562. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has enacted any stringent measures or proposes to enact any law to prevent pollution in oceans due to plastic waste;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per the Rules, the generators of 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 authorised 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.

Through the CRZ Notification, 2018 several activities are prohibited in the CRZ areas like setting up and expansion of units or mechanism for disposal of wastes and effluents, except for some essential activities. Government of India, has initiated several programmes such as “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”, National Mission for Clean Ganga and Smart Cities Mission” in order to develop clean and sustainable environment.

To tackle the problem of marine littering particularly due to the plastic waste a Steering Committee with stakeholders from all the concerned Ministries and Departments has been constituted by MoEFCC. The Ministry is joining hands with Norwegian Government to work on a project bilaterally to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution. Similarly, a bilateral project with German Government to close the loop of marine litter in ecosystems is also underway.

Hon’ble Prime Minister has announced India’s pledge to Ban all Single-Use Plastic by 2022. In this regard Ministry has issued guidelines and written letters to offices of Central Government and its departments, major PSUs, corporates, etc to prohibit single-use plastic products in their offices.

Further, 32 States/Union Territories have issued notifications/orders introducing regulations pertaining to complete ban on plastic carry bags and/or other single-use plastic items.

The Rules stipulates stringent norms for plastic that cannot be recycled. The carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic less than fifty microns in thickness has been prohibited due to non-recyclability. There is complete ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Further the recycling of plastic waste should conform to the Indian Standard: IS 14534:1998 titled as Guidelines for Recycling of Plastics.

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. The primary responsibility for collection of used multi-layered plastic sachet or pouches or packaging is fixed on the producers, importers and brand owners who introduce the products in the market. They need to establish a system for collecting back the plastic waste generated due to their products.

Further, the Rules mandate the local bodies to frame bye-laws incorporating the provisions of these rules. All waste generators shall pay user fee or charge as may be specified in the bye-laws of the local bodies for plastic waste management such as waste collection or operation of the facility thereof, etc.
