

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 947
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

Garbage burning

947. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of incidence of garbage burning across several villages in the country owing to lack of alternate ways to dispose off garbage;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to stop the practice of garbage burning in the country to curb the release of toxic gases, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is strictly implementing the ban on single use plastic in the country; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government on such companies which have been manufacturing items using single use plastic?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b):The Ministry has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. Both the Rules, have specific provisions dealing with burning of wastes. Under the Solid Waste Management Rules, it is stipulated that no waste generator shall throw, burn or bury the solid waste generated by him, on streets, open public spaces outside his premises or in the drain or water bodies. Further, these Rules cast specific duties and responsibilities on local authorities and village Panchayats, wherein *inter alia* the waste generators are to be directed not to litter any waste or burn or bury waste on streets, open public spaces, drains, waste bodies. The street sweepers are also to be directed not to burn tree leaves collected from street sweeping. Under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the Local bodies are also required to ensure ensuring that open burning of plastic waste does not take place.

As per Solid Waste Management Rules, each State/Union territory had to prepare a policy and solid waste management strategy in consultation with stakeholders, consistent with the Rules. The State / Union territories are also to ensure the implementation of these rules by all local authorities.

(c) and (d): As per Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2016, plastic carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic less than fifty microns in thickness has been prohibited along with sachets using plastic materials for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. The Ministry has also issued "Standard Guidelines on Single Use Plastic" with suggestions on different set of actions for State/UT Governments for minimization of Single-use plastic. 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. 32 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.
