

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3981
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

Single-Use Plastics

3981. DR. RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI NAYAB SINGH:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to do away with single-use plastics in order to address pollution caused by plastics;
- (b) whether the Union Government has been running any public awareness campaign to check the use of single-use plastics;
- (c) if so, the details of institutions and administrative departments engaged in such campaign;
- (d) whether any law has been formulated/ passed by the Government in the recent past to minimize the use of such plastics and the pollution caused by it; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, prohibit manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags and plastic sheets less than fifty microns in thickness in the country. There is complete ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.

The Ministry had also issued "Standard Guidelines for Single-Use Plastic" on 21st January 2019 to all States/UTs and Ministries. The guidelines entails waste management system improvements, legal options for States/UTs to prohibit SUP items through regulatory measures, eco-friendly alternatives, social awareness and public education. The Guidelines also include measures to be taken by government offices. 33 States/UTs have issued notifications/orders

introducing regulations pertaining to complete or partial ban on plastic carry bags and/or identified single-use plastic items.

(b) & (c): The Union Government through various central ministries and government agencies has been involved in generating public awareness on plastic waste management including single-use plastics. Some of the public awareness campaigns run by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) are given below:

- A three-phase campaign “Swachhta Hi Sewa” was undertaken in 2019 where citizens collected Single Use Plastic from the houses, streets etc. and deposited the waste at designated locations for recycling.
- Further, for spreading awareness among the coastal cities and towns, beach cleaning drive was also taken up across 50 beaches.
- Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry, about one lakh schools have been identified as Eco-clubs, wherein, nearly thirty lakh students are actively participating in various environment protection and conservation activities including plastic waste management.

(d) & (e): The Government of India has issued a draft notification in the Gazette of India vide GSR No. 169 (E) on 11th March 2021 for amending Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, inter alia prohibiting the use of identified Single use plastic items by 2022, for public consultation.
