

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1889
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Biodegradable Plastics

1889. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:
SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to initiate Compostable and Biodegradable plastics as an alternative to Petro-plastics in the manufacturing and packaging sectors and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has been running any public awareness campaign to promote the use of Bioplastics;
- (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 promote the use of Bio-plastics; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (e): As per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the provision of thickness applicable on carry bags made of virgin and recycled plastic shall not be applicable to carry bags made up of compostable plastic. The carry bags made from compostable plastics shall conform to the Indian Standard: IS 17088:2008 titled as Specifications for Compostable Plastics, as amended from time to time. The manufacturers or seller of compostable plastic carry bags shall obtain a certificate from the Central Pollution Control Board before marketing or selling.

The Central Pollution Control Board has developed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for issuing of Certificates to manufacturers/seller of Compostable plastic/products. Online portal for certification of Manufacturers/Seller has also been developed by CPCB. Total 163 Certificates have been issued to Compostable Manufacturers/Sellers till date by CPCB. The certified capacity has increased substantially, from nil in 2016 to 280000 Tonnes per annum which addresses approximately 8% of the total plastic waste generated in the country.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had also issued a notification in the Gazette of India vide GSR No. 169 (E) on 11th March 2021 containing draft provisions for amending Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, inter alia prohibiting the use of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022, for public consultation.

As per the notification containing draft provisions, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the following identified single use plastic items are proposed to be prohibited as per schedule given below

S. No.	Items	Phase out date
1	Carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic less than 120 microns in thickness	30.09.2021
2	Non-woven plastic carry bag less than 60 GSM (Gram per square meter) or 240 microns in thickness	30.09.2021
3	Ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration	1.1.2022
4	single-use plastic (including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene) items plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping/packing films around sweet boxes; invitation cards; and cigarette packets, plastic/PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers. The above provision shall not apply to commodities (including carry bags) made of compostable plastic material.	01.07.2022
