

**Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2021**

PLASTIC PACKAGING

279. DR. RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA:
(OIH)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to take any steps to make food products plastic packaging free which are being sold in plastic packs;
- (b) if so, the time by which this action plan is likely to be made operational; and
- (c) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c) : Rule 4 (b) of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 provide that carry bags made of recycled plastic or products made of recycled plastic shall not be used for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 prescribing standards for materials coming in contact with food products, including packaging materials. Following regulatory measures have been taken by FSSAI to enable Food and Beverage industry to reduce their plastic foot print:-

- i. issued guidelines for use of bamboo as food contact material;
- ii. allowed serving drinking water in paper-sealed reusable glass bottles for captive use within the hotel premises subject to certain conditions;
- iii. removed the restriction on use of returnable bottles for packaging of artificially sweetened beverages;
- iv. permitted the use of liquid nitrogen dosing in PET bottles during the packaging of drinking water;
- v. permitted the use of other food grade packaging materials for packaging of drinking water other than plastics that are used currently;
- vi. promoted bio degradable packaging as part of Eat Right India initiative and encouraged Food Businesses to reduce use of plastics.