

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 407**  
ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021

PACKAGING OF PROCESSED FOOD

**407. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:**

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to reduce the production of single-serve plastic packaging for processed food, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to incentivize the production of sustainable single-serve packaging for processed food and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) & (b). Government is taking several efforts to reduce the use of single serve packaging for processed food. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags and plastic sheets less than fifty microns in thickness in the country. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had also issued a draft notification in the Gazette of India vide GSR No. 169 (E) on 11<sup>th</sup> 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. 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. FSSAI has been continuously working on the packaging regulations to accommodate more environment-friendly materials and alternatives to plastics.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing R&D schemes to fund the research and development in the field of food processing sector including packaging for processed food. Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology(IIFPT) has laid thrust on the development of biodegradable packaging materials such as bioplastics, edible cutlery, tableware from agriculture waste for packaging of processed foods such as snacks and confectionery packing.

\*\*\*\*\*