

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 935
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03-12-2021

Promotion of Biodegradable and Compostable Polymers

935. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:

SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA:

SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:

SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has taken any steps or initiatives to promote the use of Bio Degradable and Compostable polymers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to review the National Policy on Petrochemicals which was announced in 2007 and bring it in line with current technological and environmental changes taking place across the globe; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) and (b) To promote the research and development of Bio-Degradable and Compostable polymers in the country, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals provided financial support to establish the Centre of Excellence at the

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati with the mandate to develop bio-degradable Plastics and its products for the need of Indian Industries. The other two Centres of Excellence were established with the support of the Department at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Bhubaneswar also works to promote bio-degradable polymers like Poly Lactic Acid (PLA) and their composites.

The department also promotes Green / Bio-degradable polymer innovation by providing the National Petrochemicals Awards for Technology Innovation in Petrochemical and downstream Plastic Processing Industry in the category of Green / Bio-degradable polymer.

As per Rule 4 (h) of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, the restriction imposed on thickness under the rules, shall not be applicable to carry bags and commodities made up of compostable plastic. 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 or commodities or both 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 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the draft Regulations on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended from time to time, in the Gazette of India vide GSR No. 722 (E) on 6th October, 2021, for public consultation.

As per the draft EPR notification, in case, the obligated entities having utilizes plastic packaging which is 100% biodegradable in the ambient environment leaving no traces of micro plastics/chemical residue/any other traces having adverse environmental and health impacts as certified by regulatory entities CPCB, Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), CIPET, the EPR target will not be applicable for such material.

(c) and (d) No. The current National policy on Petrochemicals is in line with the technological and environmental changes occurring in the country and worldwide.
