

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2107
ANSWERED ON 15TH MARCH, 2022

PLASTIC PACKAGING FOR PROCESSED FOOD

2107. SHRI NAYAB SINGH:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government has taken several measures to reduce the use of single-serve packaging for processed food. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags and plastic sheets less than fifty microns in thickness in the country. Subsequently, MoEF&CC has amended the above Rules and notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, prohibiting identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1st July 2022. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) had also 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 packaging for food items.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a R&D scheme to fund research and development in the field of food processing sector including sustainable singleserve packaging for processed food. National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Thanjavur, under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has laid thrust on sustainable packaging solutions for production of single-serve packaging for processed food products from the biomass sources such as sugarcane bagasse, wheat bran, rice bran, onion peel and coconut wood powder. The institute has developed variety of bio-based packaging materials such as tableware, edible cutlery and coating materials from the bio wastes and biomass materials.
