

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *310
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

Single Use Plastic

*310. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:
SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:

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

- (a) the salient features of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to phase out all other plastic items such as packings of milk, chips, bread, etc. other than the plastic items banned by the Government with effect from 1st July, 2022;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, then reasons therefor along with the time-frame for complete phase out of all plastic items to achieve the target of total ban on plastic; and
- (d) the details of efforts being undertaken by the Government to spread awareness among the masses?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 310 to be answered on 8th August, 2022 on “Single Use Plastic” by Shri Dileshwar Kamait, Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana, Hon’ble Members of Parliament.

(a): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, on 16th February 2022.

The key highlights of the Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) on plastic packaging notified on 16th February 2022 are (i) mandatory registration of Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) and Plastic Waste Processors (PWP) through centralized online portal, (ii) coverage of four categories of plastic packaging viz. rigid packaging, flexible packaging, multi-layered plastic packaging, and compostable plastic packaging, (iii) clearly defined targets for EPR, (iv) mandatory targets for reuse of rigid plastic packaging, minimum level of recycling of plastic waste and use of recycled plastic content in plastic packaging, (v) centralized online portal to support implementation of EPR, (vi) provision sale and purchase of surplus EPR certificates, (vii) levy of environmental compensation for non-fulfilment of EPR obligations, (viii) provision for verification, audit and monitoring of obligated entities.

(b) & (c): Considering the adverse effect of littered single use plastic items on terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems, the Ministry has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, prohibiting the following identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1st July 2022.

(a) ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;

(b) plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

The notification also prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than seventy five microns with effect from 30th September, 2021, and having thickness less than thickness of one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022. Non-woven plastic carry bags of less than 60 gram per sqm (GSM) is also prohibited from 30th September 2021. The items that have been banned have been identified based upon recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India. The plastic packaging for milk, chips, bread etc. is covered under the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging. As per the Guidelines, the producers, importers and brand owners introducing plastic packaging in the market are mandated to undertake EPR for environmentally sound management of plastic packaging waste.

(d) The Union Government through various central ministries and government agencies has been involved in generating public awareness on plastic waste management and elimination of single-use plastics. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had launched Prakriti – Mascot on 5th April 2022. Three videos of PRAKRITI on ban on single use plastics have been made and translated in 19 languages. These have been shared

with States and UTs for further dissemination. A dedicated webpage with all awareness material has been created for making available all information materials and videos for wider dissemination and use by stakeholders. An E-Pledge on Swachh Bharat Harit Bharat Green Pledge has been launched on My Gov Platform for generating public movement amongst citizens on 5th April 2022. A one month long pan India awareness campaign was organized from 1st July 2022 along with States and Union Territories.
