

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1148
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Single Use Plastic

1148. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is in favour of regulating and not eliminating Single Use Plastic;
- (b) whether it is also true that the Government has agreed to science based criteria for identifying such plastics in the week long negotiations involving 192 countries held in Canada recently;
- (c) whether many other countries have also taken the same stand that no outright stoppage of single use and avoidable plastics; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, prohibiting manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items, which have low utility and high littering potential with effect from the 1st July, 2022. The notification also prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than 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) are also prohibited from 30th September 2021. Separately, States/UTs have issued notifications/orders introducing regulations pertaining to complete or partial ban on plastic carry bags and/or identified single-use plastic items, over and above the Plastic Waste Management Rules.

(b) to (d): Indian delegation participated in the negotiations at fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 4) held in Canada from 23rd April 2024 to 29th April 2024. INC 4 deliberated and negotiated on revised draft of the international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution. The revised draft will serve as the starting point of negotiations during INC 5. The INC 4 decided to establish ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups on the following topics:

(i) to develop an analysis of potential sources, and means that could be mobilized, for implementation of the objectives of the instrument, including options for the establishment of a financial mechanism, alignment of financial flows, and catalyzing finance, and

(ii) to identify and analyse criteria and non criteria based approaches regarding plastic products and chemicals of concern in plastic products, and product design focussing on recyclability and reusability of plastic products, considering their uses and applications.

The two expert groups have been established to inform and help advance the work of the Committee and their meetings and are only of a technical and expert nature. These are not negotiating nor decision-making meetings and are not part of an INC session.
