

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1919.
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 11TH MARCH, 2025.**

PER CAPITA PAPER CONSUMPTION

1919. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the per capita paper consumption in the country is currently at a low of 16 kg, as compared to the global average of 57 kg;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the country's per capita paper consumption, considering the projected rise due to increasing literacy rates, the growth of organized retail, the rising need for packaging, and overall economic development; and
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to tackle environmental damage caused by high paper consumption, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a) & (b):** It is a fact that per capita consumption of paper in the country is 16 kg. Per capita consumption would rise in future, however, on account of, inter-alia, focus on sustainability and steps such as ban on single-use plastic which has a positive impact on demand for paper based packaging materials, increasing education and literacy levels and the resultant increased demand for printed material, ancillary paper demand on account of manufacturing growth due to various government initiatives.
- (c):** Paper is one of the most environment-friendly products as it is produced from renewable and sustainable resources and thus, biodegradable and recyclable. Moreover, the Government has notified the environmental standards for various industries including pulp & paper industry under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. The Government has also developed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for utilisation of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) sludge and process sludge generated from the pulp & paper industry.
