

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1547
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Measures to Reduce Plastic Consumption and Promote Alternatives

1547. SHRI P C MOHAN:

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

- (a) the progress made in phasing out single-use plastics since the nationwide ban came into effect in July 2022;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to monitor and enforce compliance among manufacturers and retailers;
- (c) the measures adopted to reduce overall plastic consumption, including awareness drives, waste-segregation initiatives and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms;
- (d) the viable alternatives such as biodegradable, paper-based or compostable materials being promoted for packaging and daily-use products; and
- (e) the incentives and support programmes introduced for industries, startups and urban local bodies to adopt eco-friendly materials and plastic-recycling technologies, particularly in Karnataka and Bengaluru?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, prohibiting identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1 July 2022. Regular enforcement drives were undertaken to enforce ban on identified single use plastic items by CPCB/SPCB/PCC along with local authorities across the country. As per details provided by SPCB/PCC and details available at SUP compliance monitoring portal, a total of 8,62,356 inspections have been conducted and 1990 tonnes of banned single use plastic items have been seized and a total of Rs. 19.85 crores of fine has been levied from July, 2022, till January, 2026.

(b) The following steps have been taken to strengthen implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and to implement ban on identified Single Use Plastic items:

(i) All thirty-six States/UTs have constituted the Special Task Force under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary / Administrator for elimination of identified single use Plastic items and effective plastic waste management. A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

(ii) Directions have been issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for setting up of institutional mechanism for enforcement of provisions of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 to all State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees. Directions have also been issued to E-commerce companies, leading Single Use Plastic sellers/users, and plastic raw material manufacturers with respect to phasing out of identified single use plastic items. Separately, custom authorities have been asked to stop the import of banned SUP items.

(iii) For effective monitoring of ban on identified Single Use Plastic items and plastic waste management in the country, the following online platforms are in operation: (a) National Dashboard for monitoring of comprehensive action plan implementation, (b) CPCB Monitoring Module for Compliance on Elimination of Single Use Plastic, and (c) CPCB Grievance Redressal App.

(iv) States and Union Territories have been asked to undertake regular enforcement drives to implement ban on identified single use plastic items and on plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred twenty microns covering fruit and vegetable markets, wholesale markets, local markets, flower vendors, units manufacturing plastic carry bags etc. Actions have been taken by concerned authorities on the deviations, which include seizure of banned single use plastic items and levy of penalty.

(c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also notified the Guidelines on the Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022, on 16th February, 2022. The Guidelines stipulate mandatory targets on EPR, recycling of plastic packaging waste, reuse of rigid plastic packaging and use of recycled plastic content. The EPR Guidelines provides mechanism to promote sustainable plastic packaging inter alia based on the following criteria: (i) package designing promoting reuse; (ii) package designing amenable for recycling; (iii) recycled plastic content in plastic packaging material and; (iv) package designing for environment. These steps will lead to reducing the plastic foot print of plastic packaging.

As per information available on the dashboard of centralized Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) portal on plastic packaging, around 58685 producers, importers and brand owners and 3012 plastic waste processors are registered under EPR Guidelines on plastic packaging. Further, since 2022, the quantity of plastic packaging waste processed is 191 lakh Tonnes.

(d) & (e): The ban on identified single use plastic items has triggered development of innovative eco-alternatives. Central Government, State Governments and local authorities have taken steps on moving towards eco-friendly alternatives. Based upon the information provided by State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board have prepared a “Compendium of Manufacturers / Sellers of Eco-alternatives to Banned Single Use Plastic Items”, which was released on World Environment Day, 2025. The compendium provides details of nearly 1000 units spread across the country. The Compendium is available on the website of CPCB for wider dissemination and use. In keeping with the development of eco-alternatives, Bureau of Indian Standard had earlier notified Indian Standard IS 18267 for Food Serving Utensil Made from Agri By-Products.

The Government of Karnataka, in coordination with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other stakeholder departments, has introduced and

implemented several incentives and support programmes to encourage industries, startups and local bodies to adopt eco-friendly materials and plastic-recycling technologies. Under the Karnataka Startup Policy and allied innovation programmes, startups working on sustainable materials, plastic alternatives, recycling technologies and circular economy solutions are provided incentives such as reimbursement of patent filing costs, market access support, incubation facilities, and financial assistance through state-supported innovation funds. The Government of Karnataka has given preference to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in procurement of goods and Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) tenders for setting up recycling infrastructure.
