

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 350
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

Plastic Pollution

350. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that according to the journal Nature, India tops the plastic pollution ranking by emitting a fifth of global plastic waste (around 9.3 million tonnes per year), if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has identified the major reasons and sources of such a high level of plastic waste generation despite the existing waste disposal programmes;
- (c) the details of the estimated percentage loss of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity attributed to plastic pollution and marine litter;
- (d) whether the Government utilizes waste-to-energy technologies for plastic waste disposal, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government plans to leverage the National Plastic Waste Reporting portal to ensure accountability of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for effective plastic waste collection and disposal?

ANSWER

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

(a): The reports published on plastic pollution vary in their assessments on account of data sources, methodologies and assumptions. Based upon information provided by State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to Central Pollution Control Board, the plastic waste generated in the country for the year 2022-23 is 4.13 million tonnes.

(b) to (d): In order to reduce pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic and considering the adverse effect of littered single use plastic items on terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems, the Ministry 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, from 1st July 2022. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022, on 16th February, 2022.

As per Plastic Waste Management Rules, local bodies shall encourage the use of plastic waste (preferably the plastic waste which cannot be further recycled) for road construction as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or energy recovery or waste to oil, etc. Further, under

Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging, producers, importers and brand owners are mandated to ensure minimum level of recycling of plastic packaging covered under EPR and only those plastics, which cannot be recycled can be sent for end of life disposal which includes waste to energy, waste to oil, cement kilns (for co processing) etc. As per available information, there are twenty one operational Waste to Energy Plants in the country.

(e): As per Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024, notified on 14th March, 2024, every urban local body, Panchayat at District Level, State Pollution Control Boards, and Pollution Control Committees shall prepare and submit annual report in the prescribed form on the portal. The portal captures information from urban local bodies and Panchayats at District Level with respect to plastic waste generated, characterization & assessment of plastic waste, infrastructure details with respect to collection, transportation & processing of plastic waste, and enforcement of ban on identified single use plastic items.
