GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 766
(ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026)

COMMERCIAL USE OF VEGAN LEATHER ALTERNATIVES

766. DR ANAND KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

a. **the number of industries/enterprises granted technology transfer or license for commercial use of vegetarian/vegan leather-like materials developed from mango peels, rice-wheat residue etc. by the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and the products being develoed from them so far;**
b. **whether the CLRI conducted any comparative study of products made from vegan leather alternatives with conventional leather products in terms of cost, durability performance, environmental impact and consumer utility; and**
c. **if so, the major findings of the study and the steps proposed for further research and commercialization based on these?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

a. **CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI), Chennai – A constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has granted license to seven (07) industries/enterprises for commercial use of vegetarian/vegan leather-like materials developed from mango peels, rice-wheat**

residue etc. The products prepared so far by the licensee industries/enterprises are as follows:

- **Lifestyle products, including wallets, handbags, accessories, and allied consumer goods**
- **Sheet materials for use in Lifestyle products and footwear applications.**

(b)&(c) Yes. CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI), Chennai has conducted characterization studies on the leather-like materials produced from wheat and rice straw and mango pulp. The studies covered:

- **Cost aspects, such as capital and production cost, particularly at pilot and industrial-scale production environments. The studies indicate that the production cost of the developed materials is approximately 50% lower than that of conventional leather; and**
- **Physical and mechanical characteristics, including strength, flexibility, and suitability for different lifestyle product applications. The durability & performance of vegan materials are nearly comparable to leather. However, leather possesses superior strength and durability properties. The developed leather-like materials are easily biodegradable compared to synthetic and conventional leathers.**

The institute is committed to advancing high-end product development through a duel focus on application-oriented testing and ongoing rigorous regulatory compliance. This strategic approach provides the necessary framework for realizing sophisticated, market-ready products.

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