

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1237
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

Ban on Single-Use Plastic

1237. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:
SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI:
SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the increasing level of pollution in cities due to various reasons; if so, the details thereof, Sources-wise;
- (b) the standing of country in international index of pollution along with the steps taken by the Government to control the use of plastic and other polluting materials in the country;
- (c) whether the ban on plastic by the market is effective, if so the status of the ban on single-use plastic bags across the country along with the data of prosecution against the violations of the rules including shop keepers and common consumers;
- (d) the reasons for open and uninterrupted use of plastic in the national capital of Delhi in almost all the weekly markets along with the steps taken to check this practice; and
- (e) whether the Government has provided any financial or technical assistance to the States for the effective implementation of the Plastic Waste Management and if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the details of any alternatives to plastic bags found by the Government or Non-Government Agencies?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): 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. 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 31 December 2022. Non-woven plastic carry bags of less than 60 gram per sqm (GSM) are also prohibited from 30th September 2021.

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. As per details provided by SPCBs/PCCs and details available at SUP compliance monitoring portal, a total of 8,62,356 inspections has been conducted, and 1990 tonnes of banned single use plastic items have been seized and a total of Rs. 19.85 crores of fine have been levied from July, 2022, till January, 2026.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also notified the Guidelines on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 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. Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) phase II, implemented by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, central assistance is provided to States/UTs for solid waste management including plastic waste management.

Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) prevents and control air and water pollution through enactment of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder. The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees undertake monitoring and enforcement activities as per mandate.

To provide better air quality in urban areas, the Government has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to address air pollution in 130 Non-Attainment and million plus cities/urban agglomerations in 24 States/UTs including North India. MoEFCC conducts Swachh Vayu Survekshan annually to rank 130 cities, which are covered under National Clean Air Programme and the results are available on website of CPCB at https://prana.cpcb.gov.in/ncapServices/robust/fetchFilesFromDrive/Swachh_Vayu_Survekshan_2025_Result.pdf. Further, CPCB has formulated Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI), which is a rational number (ranging from 0 to 100) to characterize environmental quality at a given industrial area following algorithm of pollution source, pathway and receptor. The industrial area having aggregated CEPI scores 70 and above are considered as Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs), whereas CEPI scores ≥ 60 and < 70 are considered as Severely Polluted Areas (SPAs) and CEPI scores less than 60 are considered as Other Polluted Areas (OPAs). Worldwide ranking of cities for pollution levels is not being conducted by official authority.
