

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 697
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

Prohibition on Sale of Single-use plastics

697. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has brought out 2021 draft rules to prohibit manufacture, import, stocking, distribution and sale of certain single-use plastics from January 1, 2022;
- (b) if so, the details and features of such rules thereof;
- (c) the ways in which his ministry is planning to enforce the said rules given the poor enforcement of existing notified rules in this regard;
- (d) whether the National Green Tribunal has recently made observations on the tardy implementation of the extended producer responsibility regime by his Ministry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by his Ministry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a notification containing draft provisions in the Gazette of India vide GSR No. 169 (E) on 11th March 2021 for amending Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, inter alia prohibiting the use of identified single use plastic items by 2022, for public consultation.

As per the draft notification, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the following identified single use plastic items are proposed to be prohibited as per schedule given below

S. No.	Items	Phase out date
1	Carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic less than 120 microns in thickness	30.09.2021
2	Non-woven plastic carry bag less than 60 GSM (Gram per square meter) or 240 microns in thickness	30.09.2021
3	Ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration	1.1.2022
4	single-use plastic (including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene) items Plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, straw, container and container lids, trays, plastic/PVC banners less than 100 microns, stirrers.	01.07.2022

The above provisions shall not apply to commodities (including carry bags) made of compostable plastic material.

(c) The following steps have been taken to strengthen implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and also to reduce the use of identified single use plastic items:

(i) The States/UTs have been requested to constitute a Special Task Force under Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary/Administrator for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. Already, 14 States/UTs have constituted the Special Task Force till date. 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) The State /UT Governments and concerned Central Ministries/Departments have also been requested for the development of a comprehensive action plan for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and its implementation in a time bound manner.

(iii) Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have been issued to all States/Union Territories inter alia for setting up for institutional mechanism for strengthening enforcement of Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016.

(iv) The Government has been taking measures for awareness generation towards elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

(d) & (e): The Plastic Waste Management Rules, since their coming into force in 2016, mandate producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for waste collection system based on extended producer responsibility. The order dated 8th January 2021 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), relates to finalization of a draft Guideline document prepared by the Ministry for effective implementation of Extended Producers Responsibility by producers, importers and brand owners. The draft Guidelines were put on the website of the Ministry for comments of stakeholders in June 2020. Around 160 comments had been received on the draft Extended Producer Responsibility Guidelines. Since the time of the direction of Hon'ble NGT, the comments received on the Guidelines have been compiled and have been processed.

Further, Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, had been issued to all State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees, regarding registration of producers and brand owners for fulfilment of extended producer responsibility in October, 2020. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had also issued a profoma for Action Plan for fulfilment of extended producer responsibility in June, 2019. The CPCB has also issued Standard Operating Procedure for registration of Producer, Importer and Brand Owner under PWM Rules, 2016, as amended, for effective implementation of EPR in March, 2021. Separately, 'Guidelines for assessment of Environmental Compensation for violation of PWM Rules, 2016' have also been issued by CPCB.
