

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *158
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

Single-use Plastic Products

*158. DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether plastic pollution is a major problem in the country which generates 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste every year and only 60 per cent of it is recycled and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the use of plastic water bottles during meetings and other functions is a common practice in various offices and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make all offices single-use plastic free and if so, the details thereof along with the instructions/directions issued to the Ministries/Departments to phase out the use of single-use plastic products such as plastic water bottles in their offices;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated an action plan to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022 and has set an example on the world stage by committing to overcome pollution caused by plastic, if so, the details thereof along with the rules and regulations to curtail/stop the usage of single-use plastic or non-recycle plastic and the steps taken to set up plastic recycling units at various places in the country; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to eliminate single-use plastic packaging material at very initial stages of manufacturing and if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken by the Government to reduce and recycle plastic waste in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 158 to be answered on Friday, the 27th July, 2018 on “Single-use Plastic Products” by Dr. PritamGopinathMunde and Shri Dharmendra Yadav

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) conducted study on plastic waste in 60 major cities of India. It has been estimated that around 4059 tonnes/day of plastic waste is generated from these cities. Extrapolating this plastic waste generation data from 60 major cities to the entire country, it is estimated that around 25,940 tonnes/day of plastic waste is generated in India. Approximately 15384 tonnes per day, which is 60 % of the total plastic waste generated in the country is collected and recycled

(b) and (c) It is observed that the Government and the private organizations/institutes use plastic water bottles during meetings and other functions. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has written letters to the offices under its own administrative control, Regional Offices of the Ministry, major PSUs, corporate offices, institutes etc to prohibit single-use plastic products including water bottles, take away coffee cups, lunch wrapped in disposable plastic packaging, plastic bags, disposable food containers, plates and containers made of polystyrene foam, plastic straws etc. in their offices. MoEF&CC has also written to all other ministries to take similar steps in their offices. The schools were reached through Eco-Clubs operating in the respective states to create awareness about ill effect of “single use plastic” and eliminate.

Letters were issued to Chief secretaries of all the states/Union Territories to communicate with temple, mosques, gurudwaras and churches in their states on ill effect of “single use plastic” and to encourage staff and visitors to prohibit Single-use plastic products.

(d) and (e) India was the global host of The World Environment Day 2018 and it was celebrated across India on 5th June, 2018. The theme of this years WED was “Beat Plastic Pollution”. A series of engaging activities and events including plastic clean-up drives in public areas, beach clean-up and river cleaning activities, conferences, workshops, cultural programmes, media publicity, campaigns, exhibitions, competitions etc. were organized. A State Environment Ministers Conference was organized on 4th June, 2018 and as a part of action plan the Ministry took resolution (i) to undertake capacity building programme for the ULBs, SPCBs, other stakeholders, (ii) to promote innovative technologies in waste management sector, (iii) to convene meeting with Chief Secretaries of States/UTs to monitor the implementation of the rules (iv) to take efforts to reduce the use of single use plastic in India (v) adoption of Green Good Deeds for better waste management, (vi) to develop a mechanism to document success stories in waste management.

The Government in suppression of the earlier Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 has notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. Further amendment to the Rules

was notified in March, 2018. As per the rules, carry bag and plastic sheet made of virgin or recycled plastic, shall not be less than fifty microns in thickness. The generators of waste have been mandated to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter the plastic waste, ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover segregated waste to local bodies or agencies authorised by the local bodies. The Rules also mandate the responsibilities of local bodies, gram panchayats, waste generators, retailers and street vendors to manage plastic waste. The Rules mandate the producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for waste collection system based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility.
