

Regarding proper implementation of ban on single use plastic.-laid

SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI (ELURU): As per Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notification No. G.S.R.57(E) dated 12.08.21, from July 1, 2022, India banned single-use plastic (SUPs) items that have low utility but are frequently littered around, such as plastic, straws, cutlery and cigarette packets. However, even after several months since the ban came into effect, little had moved on the ground. Several banned plastic items are still seen in circulation in marketplaces, eateries and other public places. Vendors have been reported saying that there has neither been any punitive action nor any advisory to stop using these products and that these products are available wholesale as usual. The continuing usage of these plastic items is contributing to 3.5 million tonnes of plastic generated in India annually, a majority of which stays uncollected resulting in pollution of our ecosystem. Thus, effective implementation of the announced ban is required with environment-friendly alternatives to these products. In this regard, I urge upon the Government to take the appropriate steps in line with the ban announced by our Hon?ble Prime Minister as well as to look into issuing notices to the handful of Cigarette manufacturers making and/or selling in India not to use any plastic material in the packaging in any form and to shift to environment-friendly alternatives.