

## **Regarding ban on single use plastic lighters-laid**

**SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** I propose a ban on single-use plastic lighters and support for our traditional matchbox industry to address environmental and economic concerns. Single-use plastic lighters are non-biodegradable and contribute to plastic pollution, harming wildlife and ecosystems. In contrast, matchsticks are biodegradable and have a lower environmental footprint. Supporting the matchbox industry offers economic benefits by creating jobs, especially in rural areas, and preserving traditional craftsmanship. To implement this, I suggest:

**Legislative Action:** Ban the manufacture, import, and sale of plastic lighters. **Incentives for Manufacturers:** Provide subsidies and tax breaks to matchbox producers to enhance production and sustainability. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educate the public on the environmental impact of plastic lighters and promote matchsticks. **Research and Development:** Invest in innovations to improve matchbox production and explore new markets. **Support for Workers:** Offer retraining and financial assistance for those affected by the ban. This approach will reduce plastic waste, boost the matchbox industry, and support rural employment. Let us act to protect our environment and economy.