

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2478  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002  
FOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS  
N.T. SHANMUGAM

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to replace the Plastic with that of chitosan films as food packaging materials which are abundantly available polysaccharides in nature ;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof ; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to create the general awareness among the people in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a),(b)&(c) : In the economically advanced countries packaging films made out of proteins, polysaccharides and their derivatives are finding increasing use for packaging food material. However, there is no information regarding such packaging films having completely replaced plastics. Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, a constituent unit of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have developed chitosan films made out of chitin, a polysaccharide abundantly available in India. These films possessing good tensile/tear strength both in dry and wet states, have been successfully tested for a few food packaging applications at laboratory level only. At present such films are not seen as a viable alternative to plastic for food packaging.