

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:520

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether increasing use of plastic products is posing a great threat to human health and environment;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to impose a ban a polythene bags and disposable items made of substandard plastic in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any norms/guidelines have been issued by the Union Government in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether similar guidelines have also been issued to the State Government in the matter; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (g): Indiscriminate littering and improper collection and disposal of plastic carry bags and pouches can pose problems for human health and environment.

The Central Government has notified Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 (amended in 2003) to regulate the manufacture and use of plastic carry bags, containers and recycling of plastics wastes. These rules, inter alia, provide that plastic carry bags should have a minimum thickness of 20 microns, carry bags or containers made of recycled plastic shall not be used for packaging of food stuffs, manufacturing of carry bags or container will be undertaken only by units registered with State Pollution Control Boards/ Committees and recycling of plastic waste in accordance with BIS specifications. Several States have prescribed stricter norms with regard to minimum thickness of plastic carry bags, ranging from 30 to 70 microns.

No proposal for a complete ban on use of carry bags and disposable items made of plastic is under consideration of the Central Government. However, in some of the hill stations and tourist and pilgrimage places, use of plastic carry bags has been prohibited/restricted by the State Governments/ Local Authorities.