

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1798

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

BAN ON PLASTIC PACKAGING

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently banned the use of plastic for packaging gutkha¹ and other tobacco products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also banned the packaging of foodstuff in recycled or eompostable plastic under the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules,2011;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any existing monitoring mechanism to check effectively the use of plastic in the country at present; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, banning the use of plastic materials in sachets for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Further, food stuffs can not be packed in recycled plastics or eompostable plastics.

These Rules have provisions for plastic waste management, wherein municipal authority shall be responsible for setting up, operationalisation and coordination of the waste management system and for performing the associated functions such as collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of plastic waste. They are required to set up collection centers for plastic waste involving manufactures in line with the principle of extended producers responsibility and to ensure its channelisation to recyclers, create awareness among, engage agencies or groups working in waste management including waste pickers and to ensure that open burning of plastic waste is not permitted. The municipal authority may determine the minimum price for plastic carry bags and that no carry bags shall be made available free of cost to consumers. The municipal authority shall encourage the use of plastic waste by adopting suitable technology such as road construction, co-incineration etc.