

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3994  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011  
USE OF PLASTIC  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to grant clearances for manufacturing of reusable containers from the Fifth Grade Plastic for storage of edible items in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, as amended. These Rules specify, inter-alia, that plastic carry bags should have a minimum thickness of 40 microns and food stuffs cannot be packed in recycled plastics or compostable plastics. However, the manufacturing of reusable containers is not specified under the Rules.