

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4027

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011

USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed or proposes to impose a complete ban on the use of plastic bags especially on beaches across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which export is likely to be affected by imposing ban on all kinds of plastic material in the country; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop the manufacturing and use of the plastic bags/material in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No proposal to ban use of plastic in bags is under consideration of the Central Government. Some State Governments have restricted/banned the use of plastic carry bags throughout the State or in ecologically sensitive /tourist places. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 (as amended). Under these Rules, export of carry bags, exclusively for export purposes, against an order for export, is exempted. However, this exemption does not apply to any surplus or rejects, left over and the like. These Rules, inter-alia, have provisions that sachets using plastic material can not be used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Further, plastic material, in any form, shall not be used in any package for packing gutkha, pan masala and tobacco in all forms.

State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees are responsible for enforcement of provisions related to registration, manufacture and recycling and the municipal authorities are responsible for enforcement of provisions related to use, collection, segregation, transportation and disposal of plastic waste. This Ministry has written to the State Governments to review the enforcement of these Rules and take necessary action for putting in place the required implementation and monitoring arrangements for this purpose.