

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3525
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012
BAN ON PLASTIC FOR PACKAGING PURPOSES
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether pan masala and tobacco products with plastic packaging are banned for export;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether due to banning the export of pan masala and tobacco products without plastic packaging to foreign countries has resulted in loss of foreign exchange;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating to remove the ban from export of pan masala and tobacco products with plastic packages;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011. Under these Rules, it is stipulated that sachets using plastic material can not be used in any form for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. There is no proposal to exempt use of plastic material for packages of pan masala and tobacco products for export purposes. The deleterious effects of plastic on environment caused by indiscriminate littering of plastic pouches used for packing gutkha, pan masala and tobacco products necessitates a prohibition on the use of plastic in packing of gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.