

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:122

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013

BAN ON USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a note that visitors and tourists leave plastic bags inside National Parks and other protected Parks endangering the quality of life of wild animals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has banned or proposes to ban carrying of plastic bags inside these protected parks in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The National Tiger Conservation Authority has brought out generic guidelines for eco-tourism in Tiger Reserves, which provides for adherence of relevant rules and laws for pollution control within Tiger Reserves. As per these guidelines, there shall be a complete ban on burying, burning or otherwise disposing of non-biodegradable or toxic waste in and around Tiger Reserve. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued notifications under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, inter-alia, restricting the use of plastics in eco-sensitive zones surrounding the Wildlife Sanctuaries and National parks. As per the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, use of plastic carry bags has been completely banned in 11 States and Union Territories namely; Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Chandigarh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.

Management of National Parks and Sanctuaries including Do's and Don'ts for tourists is the responsibility of concerned State/ UT Government. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/ UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant.