

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2554
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
BAN ON USE OF PLASTIC POUCHES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of plastic pouches in view of their potential environmental hazard in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Chopra Committee constituted by the Delhi High Court to study the consequence of using non-reusable plastic and metal packing material has submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the main features of the report;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to ban the plastic pouches of Shampoo, Gutkha, Pan Masala, Salt and Biscuits; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e) A Committee headed by Justice R.C. Chopra (Retd.) was constituted as per the order dated 19.11.2007 of the High Court of Delhi to study the environmental hazards related to the use of plastic bags in the city of Delhi, which had submitted its report in May, 2008. In the report, the Committee has, inter-alia, recommended increasing thickness of the plastic bags for manufacture, sale and use in Delhi to 40 microns, encouraging use of virgin plastic/biodegradable bags, regulating recycling of plastic waste effectively and banning use of recycled / coloured plastic bags and multilayered and metalized pouches.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011. As per these rules, plastic carry bags should have a minimum thickness of 40 microns. Sachets using plastic material cannot be used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Use of plastic material in any form is prohibited for packing gutkha, pan masala and tobacco. Manufacturers of plastic carry bags/multilayered plastics and persons engaged in recycling of plastic waste are required to be registered with State Pollution Control Board or the Pollution Control Committee concerned.