

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding plastic waste disposal strategies in the country.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Madam, I am speaking against the use of plastic. Plastic is something which is concerning all of us, especially in the urban scenario. Plastic is a waste, and waste management is a very, very big issue in our areas. Since it is a light weight material and a material which uses a lot of oil and natural gas, if we recycle it, it will reduce pollution. Even a child studying in fourth standard knows about recycle, reuse and reduce. But if we go back to the issue of reduction, there seems to be no reduction.

I was reading a report which has come from the Harvard University about the pollution status in India. The pollution status in India is that in the 60s' you know there was completely no pollution in the country because most of the people were using *datuns* and not toothpaste. What happens to toothpaste and even to the plastic toothbrush that we use is that they go into the landfill. So, since it is a packaging material, a lot of plastic waste in the form of bags is going into the landfill. The water bottles, the so-called Bisleri water bottles, I think, are one of the biggest pollutants and likewise the Coke and the Cola bottles.

When we were young, Cola and Coke used to be served in glass bottles. Those crates used to come home and every week, the crates would go and that recycling process used to continue. Glass is not a pollutant the way plastic is because plastic is blocking the drains. It is causing pollution.

HON. SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI : What I want to say is that the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Environment need to sit together and strategize a policy and that policy has to be a buy back policy in terms of, say, if we buy the milk, the plastic bag of the milk needs to be

bought back by the same company. If somebody is buying a plastic can of, say, oil or something, that should go back to the same company. There should be a recycling and repurchase module. So, some monetisation of the product will reduce the plastic from going into the landfill and also going into the drains, which is causing a lot of pollution in the urban areas. All the drinking water, Coke, aerated drinks, etc., should be packed only in metal cans as happens abroad or in glass bottles and not in plastic bottles. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve,

Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel,

Shri Paresh Raval,

Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde,

Shri Shrirang Appa Barne,

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Dr. Kulmani Samal,

Shri Sharad Tripathi,

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel,

Shri Ramesh Bidhuri,

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena,

Shrimati V. Sathyabama,

Dr. A. Sampath and

Dr. Manoj Rajoria are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi.