

Ban on polythene bags

†2438. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked on any concrete plan to ban polythene bags; if so, by when the ban would be implemented;

(b) whether Government has worked on any plan to decompose plastic waste as it does not decompose even in 100 years;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan for collection and disposal of wastes and also for disposal of industrial and organic wastes keeping in view the protection of environment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The manufacture and use of polythene bags and recycling of plastic wastes are regulated under the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 (as amended in 2003). As per these rules, manufacture, sale and use of carry bags less than 20 micron in thickness and less than 8 x12 inches in size are prohibited. Some States have prescribed more stringent norms for thickness of polythene bags and have banned their use in public/tourist places.

The Government has also notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000. Municipal Authorities are responsible for implementation of the provisions of these rules pertaining to collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes including plastic wastes.

The collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of hazardous waste are regulated under the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008. As per these rules, hazardous waste is to be disposed of by the industry either on its own or in a Common Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF).

Dumping ground for e-waste

2439.DR. RAM PRAKASH:

SHRI O.T. LEPOCHA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that India is turning into a dumping ground for e-waste of developed nations;

(b) whether the Ministry intends to adopt the extended procedure responsibility for the disposal of e-waste in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.