

Plastic waste management and ban on plastic carry bags

1640. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State authorities are not strictly implementing rule on plastic waste management and ban on plastic carry bags and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government asked the State Governments to act on the larger interest of the people and adhere to all green laws, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) The Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 notified by this Ministry provide for plastic waste management system to be established by the municipal authorities for management of plastic waste in areas under their jurisdictions. These Rules also prohibit manufacture sale, stocking and use of plastic carry bags of less than 40 micron in thickness. As per the information received from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the implementation of the Rules on manufacture and use of plastic carry bags and setting up of plastic waste management system by the States is not adequate.

(b) The directions have been issued to all State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to ensure immediate closure of units manufacturing plastic carry bags in violation of the Rules and to Secretaries-in charge of municipal authorities of each State and Union Territory to prohibit use and sale of sub-standard plastic carry bags.

Advantages from Silk Route Fund

1641. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government studied the China's 'Silk Route Fund' to finance infrastructure projects connecting South Asia, South East Asia, Central Asia and Europe along an integrated corridor; and

(b) if so, Indian role to take advantage of this project as participant for the development of Indian trade, and related benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has noted the new Chinese initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The ancient trade routes in Asia included the Silk Route, the Spice Route and many other such routes. These were the channels of vibrant trade in the region and beyond and anchor of Asia's prosperity. They promoted exchange of ideas, cultures, art, religion and spiritualism. India, which was at the centre of several of these trade routes, shared its age-old wisdom with societies along these routes. Government constantly evaluates synergy based cooperation with various countries to upgrade physical infrastructure connectivity to enhance trade and commerce and people to people exchanges.

Discussion for UNSC reforms

1642. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and South Africa discussed the need for UN Security Council reforms, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether India and South Africa shall move jointly on the reforms issue when 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the UNSC, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) : (a) Both India and South Africa are members of the L.69 Group of developing countries and actively consult with each other in jointly pushing for UN Security Council reforms aimed at expansion in both categories of membership. The issue of urgent need for UNSC reform has also been taken up at the highest levels of our leadership, including during the recent visit of Foreign Minister of South Africa to India in January 2015.

(b) Both India and South Africa have highlighted the need for concrete outcomes on this longstanding subject by the 70th Anniversary Summit of the United Nations. President of South Africa in his address to the 68th Session of the UNGA called upon the UNGA to "set a target for a reformed, more inclusive, democratic and representative UNSC by 2015, when the UN celebrates its 70th anniversary". Similarly, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his address at the 69th Session of the UNGA on 27 September 2014, stated "Let us fulfill our promise to reform the United Nations Security Council by 2015." As such, both India and South Africa share a common commitment to bringing about urgent reform of the UN Security Council.