

**Ban on polythene**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several voluntary organisations in various States particularly in Madhya Pradesh have decided to undertake mass movement to make people aware about the ill effects of the use of polythene on the environment and to ban it by the Central and State Governments;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action being taken by the Centre with co-operation of States to maintain the environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Madam; besides the efforts of the voluntary organisations, the Government is also supporting such activities under the National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC).

(b) and (c) In order to prevent environmental pollution due to indiscriminate littering of polythene bags, Central Government has amended the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 *vide* S.O. 698(E) dated 17th June, 2003 whereby manufacturing, stocking, distribution or selling of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastics, which are less than 8 x 12 inches in size and less than 20 microns in thickness are banned in the country.

**Pollution causing industries**

†547. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pollution causing industries in various States of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; a

(b) the details of the action taken against such industries during the last five years upto 30th June, 2004;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) what steps are being taken by Government against pollution causing industries in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) A total number of 2155 industries have been identified under 17 categories of highly polluting industries. Out of these units, 1877 units have provided requisite pollution control facilities, 225 units are closed and 53 industries are defaulters. In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, 263 and 46 industries respectively have been identified as polluting industries, details of which are as follows:—

States	Numbers of Industries			
	Total No. of units under 17 categories	Closed requisite pollution control facilities	Complying with	Defaulters
Bihar	46	19	27	00
Uttar Pradesh	263	27	232	04

(b) to (d) A number of steps have been initiated against polluting industries which *inter-alia* include;

- \* Issuance of notices/directions to industries to comply with the norms notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- \* Legal actions by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) against polluting industries.
- \* Implementation of action points prepared for each sector under the Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP) for 17 categories of industries.
- \* Regular monitoring of defaulting units by State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) and taking appropriate actions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and its amendments and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and its amendments.