

**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.