

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) As per Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2016, plastic sheet and cover made of plastic, less than fifty microns in thickness, which are used for packaging and wrapping the commodity are prohibited. Further, plastic carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic less than fifty microns in thickness are also prohibited. However, the Rules mandate the producers, importers and brand owners of product using plastic to work out modalities for waste collection system based on the principle of Extended Producer responsibility so that plastic waste can be channelized for environmentally sound recycling.

Considering the high environmental cost associated with the use of Single-use plastic, particularly the adverse effect on soil, water bodies and on marine environment, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced India's pledge to phase out Single-use plastic by 2022.

(c) and (d) For efficient recycling of the plastic waste, the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandates the generators of waste to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter plastic waste, ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover the segregated waste to the local bodies or agencies authorised by the local bodies. The Rules also mandate that the plastic waste, which can be recycled, shall be channelized to the registered plastic waste recyclers and the recycling of plastic shall conform to the Indian Standard: IS 14534:1998. Further, local bodies are mandated to encourage the use of plastic waste (preferably the plastic waste which cannot be further recycled) for road construction, as per Indian Road Congress guidelines, energy recovery or waste to oil etc.

Steps taken to check Air Quality Index

1486. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government to check the severe Air Quality Index and air pollution in urban areas due to the burning of fossil fuels in heavy industries and plants; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Central Government has taken a number of initiatives for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in urban areas due to the burning of fossil fuels in heavy industries and plants. These inter alia include imposing the stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs), Closure of Badarpur thermal power plant from 15th October, 2018, Banning of Pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in Delhi and NCR States, imported pet coke can be used only a feedstock across the country, installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices in all red category industries in Delhi and NCR, 503 industrial units in Delhi- NCR have installed it out of about 599 units, revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time, SO_x and NO_x standards for boilers have been introduced, about 2800 brick kilns have been shifted to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR, Only brick kilns with zig zag technology can operate in Delhi and NCR, out of about 4700 industrial units in Delhi - NCR, about 2600 units have shifted to PNG.

All these measures helped in the improvement of overall air quality in the country. Further, on the analysis of last five-year ambient air quality data (2014-2018), across the country, it is observed that most of the cities were within the National Standards with respect to parameters of SO₂ and NO₂. With respect to PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, 18 and 12 cities respectively showed decreasing trend. In reference to Delhi, there has been an overall improvement in air quality of Delhi in 2019 as compared to that of 2016. The number of 'Good' to 'Moderate' days has increased to 175 in 2019 as compared to 108 in 2016.

Ban of Manjha

1487. SHRMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal has banned the manufacturing and sale of Manjha in India alarmed by large number of accidental deaths during kite flying in festive seasons caused by use of synthetic kite strings (Manjha) coated with finely powdered glass;
- (b) whether the illegal use of Manjha for flying kite invokes the Environment (Protection) Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Wildlife (Protection) Act for causing accidental deaths to birds; and