

Illegal trafficking of Tigers

1494. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 2, 300 endangered Tigers have been killed and were illegally trafficked;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that on an average more than 120 illegally trafficked Tigers are seized each year; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reason for losing this fight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) No Sir, in so far as tigers in India are concerned, there were 21 confirmed cases of poaching while 10 cases of tiger body part seizures were reported during the year 2018.

Complete ban on single-use plastic in packaging

1495. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the large scale use of single-use plastic in packaging industry despite knowing that the material cannot be recycled and is hazardous to environment, human and animal life, especially when burnt;
- (b) action Government proposes to take to ban use of plastic in packaging of liquid and food items by suggesting appropriate material; and
- (c) whether top priority has been given to encourage research and development in identification of effective alternatives to plastics for use in packaging industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The TOTAL quantity of plastic waste including Single-use plastic waste generated in India is estimated to be around 25, 940 T/day and around 15, 384 Ton/day, which is 60% of the Total, is collected and recycled. Major (94%) portion of the plastic are thermoplastics which are recyclable. The rest 06% belong to the other type of plastics, including thermoset-plastics, which too have some alternative uses, provided such plastic waste are collected and channelized to recyclers/processing plants for proper utilization. The uncollected and littered plastic is a challenge to environ-

ment. Littering and burning of plastic has an adverse environmental impact on environment and human health.

(b) As per the provision of Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2016, use of plastic bags, plastic sheet or like with thickness less than 50 microns is prohibited. The Rules also prohibit use of carry bags made of recycled plastic or products made of recycled plastic for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff. Further, sachets using plastic material are prohibited for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.

(c) The Government has identified “Compostable plastic” as one of the alternatives to the regular plastic. The Rules specify standards/norms for “Compostable plastic”. Further, to promote the use of such plastic, the restrictive provision of minimum thickness of fifty microns is not applicable to the carry bags made up of Compostable plastic, conforming IS/ISO 17088. Further, a committee has been constituted by Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) with respect to research and development for Compostable/Biodegradable Technologies on Plastic.

**Declaration of global climatic emergency
by scientists**

1496. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the declaration by 11258 scientists from 153 countries including 69 from India, stating that untold sufferings are inevitable due to green house gas emissions and other factors related to climatic change and have called for global climatic emergency;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to bring out an action plan to restrict activities which ultimately lead to climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Reports from various sources including Intergovernmental Panel Climate Change namely Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, Special Report on Climate Change and Land, and Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, highlight the challenges faced due to climate change arising mainly from historical emissions of greenhouse gases by developed