

Ban on RO system by NGT

824. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered the closure of Reverse Osmosis (RO) system in the permissible Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) limit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Hon'ble NGT in O.A. 134 of 2015 titled 'Friends through its General Secretary *versus* Ministry of Water Resources' *vide* its order dated 20.05.2019 has directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to issue appropriate notification prohibiting use of RO where TDS in water is less than 500 mg/l and wherever RO is permitted, a requirement is laid down for recovery of water be more than 60%.

In pursuance of Hon'ble NGT's aforesaid order, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted a committee for finalisation of notification.

Production of single use plastic

†825. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of production units of single use plastic across the country and the quantity of various plastic products that have been manufactured from these units during the last three years, in tonnes; and

(b) whether Government has any action plan to shut down plastic producing unit to make environment, human life and lives of animals and birds safe, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, based on the Annual Report submitted by the State Pollution Control Boards, there are 4773 registered plastic manufacturing / compostable manufacturing / Multi-Layer Plastic manufacturing / recycling units in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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, Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced India's pledge to phase out Single-use plastic by 2022. As per the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic less than fifty microns in thickness has been prohibited. There is complete ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Many States/UTs through their own notifications have also imposed partial or complete prohibition on the use of plastic carry bags/ single use plastic. 23 States and 9 UTs have issued notifications/orders introducing regulations pertaining to complete ban on plastic carry bags and/or other single-use plastic items.

The Ministry has also issued "Standard Guidelines on Single Use Plastic" with suggestions on different set of actions for State/UT Governments for minimisation of Single-use plastic.

Protection of endangered species

826. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any increase or decrease in the number of endangered species;
- (b) the details of measures under consideration of Government for the protection and increase the population of endangered species; and
- (c) the measures taken to ensure control of the activities of illegal killing and poaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Census of major flagship species is undertaken at the State-level by the respective State/Union Territory Governments periodically. However census of tiger and elephant is undertaken at the national level once every four and five years respectively. As per the report of the latest census carried out by the state and central government, the population of endangered species especially lions, rhinos, tigers, and elephants has increased in country.

- (b) Ministry is providing financial assistance to State /UT Governments for the