### Survey on river pollution

1177.    LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.):
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a)    whether a survey has been conducted regarding the extensive pollution of rivers due to industrial discharge across the country;

(b)    if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c)    the number of industrial units found guilty during the survey and the action taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in consultation with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) concerned, undertakes inventorization and monitoring of industries along with the industries having potential to discharge into water bodies including rivers in the country.

According to CPCB, there are Total 2747 industries (Grossly Polluting Industries) in the country which have potential to discharge their effluent in water bodies. Out of Total 2747 industries, 2500 industries are operational and 247 industries are self-closed. Number of complying and non-complying units is 2225 and 275, respectively. Accordingly, necessary penal action like show cause notices (74), closure directions (143) and legal cases (3) have been initiated against such non-complying industries across the country.

### Ban on single use plastic

1178. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)    whether there is a proper definition of "single use plastic" in Indian context, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(b)    details of current schemes to implement policy of ban on single use plastic;

(c)    whether Government has any policy to regulate the plastic generated by Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector, as most of the plastic is generated by that sector, if so, details thereof;

(d)    whether Government has undertaken any study to assess amount of plastic being produced and recycled in India currently, details thereof; and

(e)    mechanism Government has provided for packing of liquid or perishable products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers constituted a committee to study Single-use plastics. The committee identified disposable plastics (use and throw items) commonly used for packaging, including items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled as 'Single-use Plastic'. These include, among other items, carry bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery etc."

(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 commodity are prohibited. Plastic carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic less than fifty microns in thickness are also prohibited.

Further, 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 plastics by 2022.

(c)    The Plastic Waste Management Rules mandate plastic producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for a waste collection system based on the principle of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) involving State Urban Development Departments. Producers, importers and brand owners who introduce such products in the market need to establish a system for collection of used multi-layered plastic sachet, pouches or packaging. The producers/brand owners have to submit the plan of collection to the State/UT Pollution Control Boards (PCBs/PCCs) while applying for Consent to Establish/ Operate (CTO/CTE).

(d)    Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) conducted a study in 60 major cities of India. The study estimated that around 4059 T/day of plastic waste is generated from these cities. It was further estimated that around 25,940 T/day of plastic waste is generated in the entire country. Approximately 15,384 tonnes per day, which is 60% of the Total plastic waste generated in the country, is collected and recycled.

(e)    Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSA1), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is mandated for laying down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. In this context, FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 which prescribe different packaging materials including plastics, used for the packaging of food articles and the food safety aspects from packaging perspective. The plastics complying with the standards of these regulations can be used safely for packaging of foods.

### Environmental clearance for exploration of Hydrocarbons

1179. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)    details of steps being taken to expedite issuance of environmental clearance for exploration of hydrocarbons in the country;

(b)    whether it is a fact that Government has issued notices to organisations who have failed to meet the compliance; and

(c)    if so, detail of projects under surveillance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Ministry has taken several steps to expedite the issuance of environmental clearance for exploration of Hydrocarbons, *inter alia,* including re-categorization of the on-shore and off-shore oil and gas exploration projects or activities from category 'A' to category 'B2'; launching of Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System named PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub) for a complete online, expeditious and transparent system for