

Government of India stands committed towards combating climate change through its several programs and schemes. This includes *inter-alia* implementation of National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which comprises of missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge on climate change. The NAPCC provides an overarching framework for all climate actions. Thirty three States /Union Territories have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in lines with NAPCC taking into account State's specific issues relating to climate change. These SAPCCs *inter-alia* outline sector specific and cross sectoral priority actions including adaptation. The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) to help support adaptation action in States and Union Territories.

India is a Party to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which is an intergovernmental body established in 1988 for assessing the science related to climate change. IPCC provides policymakers with regular scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as puts forward adaptation and mitigation strategies. Scientists from all over the world, including India, contribute to the IPCC assessment reports. As per various assessment studies of IPCC, the social, economic and environmental factors underlying migration are complex and varied; therefore, detecting the effect of observed climate change or assessing its possible magnitude with any degree of confidence is challenging. As per IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (2019), climate can amplify environmentally induced migration both within countries and across borders. Further as per IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (2018), there is a potential for significant population displacement concentrated in the tropics at 2°C of warming.

#### **Disposal of plastic waste**

63. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board has pulled up many companies for not specifying a timeline or plan to collect the plastic waste that results from their business activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of various laws existing, the country has made little progress in managing its plastic waste; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps being proposed to be taken up by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 for environmentally sound management of plastic waste and to prevent plastic pollution in the country. As per the Rules, every producer or brand-owner has to make an application to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the purpose of registration or for renewal of registration. As on date, total 86 brand owners and 4 producers have been registered by CPCB having EPR capacity of approximately 4 lakhs tons per annum. CPCB is following up with the industries for the registration as per the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

(c) and (d) As per the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 the generators of waste under the Rules have been mandated 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 authorized by them or registered waste pickers or registered recyclers. For proper regulation and sound recycling of plastic, provisions have been made for registration of all plastic recyclers with respective State/UT Pollution Control Boards/Committees. Every Urban Local body has been made responsible for setting up of infrastructure for collection, segregation and processing, including recycling and disposal of plastic waste. The local bodies have also been mandated to create awareness among all stakeholders about their respective responsibilities.

There are several challenges faced by the ULBs in implementing the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. However, to support the efforts taken by the ULBs and the State Government in implementing the Rules, the Government of India has taken several measures.

India, on 5th June 2018, hosted the World Environment Day with a theme on 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. The Hon'ble PM pledged to phase out single use plastic from India by 2022.

On the call of Hon'ble Prime Minister, a three-phase campaign "Swachhta Hi Sewa" was launched from 11th September 2019, which ended on Diwali i.e. 27th October, 2019. Under 'Swachhta hi Seva', common public of the country came together in masses on 2nd October, 2019 and collected Single Use Plastic from the houses, streets etc. and the Urban Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats etc made arrangements for deposit this plastic at a designated location. The start-ups, technical bodies and corporates came forward with their plans to recycle the collected plastic waste.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing Environment Education, Awareness and Training scheme. Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry, about one lakh schools have been identified as Eco-clubs, wherein, nearly thirty lakh students are actively participating in various environment protection and conservation activities including plastic waste management.

The Ministry launched the Green Good Deed (GGDs) movement which is a social movement with the aim of bringing about mass environmental awareness in the society at all levels.

Further, for spreading awareness among the coastal cities and towns, beach cleaning drive was initiated to clean 50 beaches from 11th Nov to 17th Nov, 2019.

The Ministry had issued "Standard Guidelines for Single-Use Plastic" on 21st January 2019 to all States/UTs and Ministries. The Standard guidelines entail waste management system improvements, legal options for States/UTs to prohibit SUP items through regulatory measures, eco-friendly alternatives, social awareness and public education. The guidelines also include measures to be taken by Government offices.

Advisories/Instructions were also issued to Chief Electoral Officers in the State during General Election 2019 regarding phase out of Single Use Plastic. Instructions were also issued to Ministries, Departments, Offices under the jurisdiction of the Governments, Regional Offices, Schools, Corporates, Major PSUs, Institutions in 2018 and 2019 to prohibit SUP products including water bottles, take away coffee cups, lunch wrapped in disposable plastic packaging, plastic bags, disposable food containers, plates and containers made of polystyrene foam, plastic straws etc. from their offices.