

down in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. As per the available information, no studies for comparison of pollution/ effluent levels of the Sterlite Copper and Hindalco Copper at Dahej, Gujarat has been conducted.

Ban on production of single use plastics

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

(a) whether the production of environment polluting single use plastic has been banned in the industrial units manufacturing single use plastic, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the number of packaged water bottles manufactured during the last three years in country and reasons for not banning the manufacturing of packaged water bottles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) 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 (SUP) by 2022. The Ministry has taken a number of steps to curb the use of SUPs including issuing of Standard Guidelines on Single Use Plastic which provides suggestions on different set of actions for State/UT Governments for minimisation of Single-use plastic.

As per Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016, plastic carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic less than fifty microns in thickness along with sachets using plastic materials for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala have been prohibited.

A large quantum of packaged water bottles are manufactured every year. It is estimated that approximately 90-95% of the PET or PETE bottles reach the formal or informal recycling industry already. Further, the rules mandate the producers, importers and brand owners of such products to establish a system for collecting the plastic waste generated due to their products under Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.