

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1477
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

Ban on plastic less than 50 micron thickness

1477. SHRI BRIJLAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the use of bags, sheets made of plastic and other such materials with thickness less than 50 microns have been banned;
- (b) whether all the States, Government and Non-Government Organizations have been instructed to implement this strictly; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken in order to prevent the use of plastic with less than 50 microns of thickness?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c): The Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016, prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags and plastic sheets less than fifty microns in thickness in the country. There is complete ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. The Plastic Waste Management Rules provide the regulatory framework for management of plastic waste generated in the country. All the stakeholders including State / Union Territory Governments, and Non-governmental organizations, from time to time, are made aware about the effective implementation of the provision contained in the Rules including those on the restriction on thickness of plastic sheets and carry bags.

Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have been issued to all States/Union Territories for setting up for institutional mechanism for strengthening enforcement of PWM Rules. Guidelines for assessment of Environmental Compensation for Violation of PWM Rules, 2016, have also been issued. These Guidelines have provisions for penal action including seizure of goods and levy of environmental compensation for violation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, which restricts thickness of carry bags/plastic sheets to 50 microns. States and Union Territories, where required, take action on non-compliance of Plastic Waste Management Rules.
