

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 2426
ANSWERED ON - 24/03/2022

MONITORING OF MARINE LITTER

2426. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the amount of litter dumped in water bodies of the country;
- (b) whether Government plans to formulate a policy to control dumping of litter in marine bodies; and;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the expected cost of implementation?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) The total plastic waste generation in the country as per Annual report of CPCB on Plastic Waste Management in 2019--2020 is 34,69,780 Tonnes per annum, of which, approximately 15.8 Lacs TPA of plastic waste is recycled and 1.67 lacs TPA is co-processed in Cement Kilns. A portion of the unprocessed and littered plastic waste can find its way through surface waste bodies like rivers into the sea. The National Centre for Coastal Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, conducts research at select locations along the Indian Coast to quantify marine litter in beach, surface sea water, and seafloor on a regular basis. Studies have been undertaken to characterize marine litter in coastal areas. In one of the studies, multilayer large and medium size packets of snacks, monolayer plastic packaging used for food, detergent etc., synthetic woven bags and polythene bags have been reported.
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Following steps have been initiated for the formulation of the National Marine Litter Policy.
 - i. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, vide GSR NO. 571 (E) on 12th August 2021, in the Gazette of India, prohibiting identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, by 1st July 2022. It 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.
 - ii. MoEF&CC had also issued "Standard Guidelines for Single-Use Plastic" on 21st January 2019 to all States/UTs and Ministries. Thirty four states/UTs have issued notifications/orders to introduce regulations pertaining to complete or partial ban on plastic carry bags and/or identified single-use plastic items.

- iii. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also notified the Guidelines on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Plastic Packaging vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022, on 16th February, 2022. The guidelines on extended producer responsibility coupled with prohibition of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1 July 2022, are important steps for reducing pollution caused due to littered plastic waste in the country.
- iv. In addition, several National level workshops have been conducted involving scientists from different research institutes, stakeholders, policymakers, industry and academic experts to prepare a roadmap for formulating the National Marine litter Policy.
- v. The Government of India has also initiated several programmes such as “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”, National Mission for Clean Ganga and Smart Cities Mission” in order to develop clean and sustainable environment which contribute towards the Marine Litter Policy.
