

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**  
**Department of Consumer Affairs**

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1178**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

**ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC PACKAGING OF FOOD COMMODITIES**

1178 SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government has planned alternatives to plastic packaging of food products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, along with the action plan for the same; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE**  
**CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c) : The draft Regulations on the Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, has been notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, on 6th October, 2021, for public consultation. The draft regulation proposes to mandate reuse, minimum level of recycling of plastic packaging waste, use of recycled plastic content, and environmentally sound management of plastic waste. The draft regulation seeks to strengthen circular economy of plastic packaging waste, promote development of new alternatives to plastics and sustainable plastic packaging.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has taken steps to encourage transition from single use plastic items to alternate materials. NITI Aayog has already constituted a Committee to find out/develop an alternative product to plastic. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate change has shared with States/UTs an indicative Action Plan for elimination of identified single use plastics.

Under the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, materials such as Paper & Board, Glass, metal & metal alloys and plastics are permitted as food contact material.

Further, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has taken measures to accommodate environmental friendly and alternatives to plastic packaging materials as per details given below:

- i. issued guidelines for use of bamboo as food contact material;
- ii. allowed serving drinking water in paper sealed reusable glass bottles for captive use within the hotel premises subject to certain conditions;
- iii. allowed use of other packaging materials (Paper and board materials/Glass/Metal and Metal Alloys ) for packing of drinking water, other than plastics that are used currently;
- iv. allowed the use of recycled plastics as food contact materials along with the relevant guidelines for acceptance criteria for recycled PET resin for food contact application.

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