

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 842
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

Production of biodegradable plastic goods

842. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a logjam between multiple Ministries in issuing provisional certificate to manufacturers of biodegradable plastic goods due to provisional protocol testing policy;
- (b) whether, for issuance of provisional certificate to manufacturers, the provisional protocol testing of biodegradable plastic requires 90 percent biodegradation, which may take two years;
- (c) whether the whole process of getting provisional certificate by manufacturers has stalled the production of biodegradable plastic goods; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government for timely issuance of provisional certificate to manufacturers?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022, stipulate, as transitory measure, procedure for issuance of provisional certificate by Central Pollution Control Board to biodegradable plastics, in cases, where an interim test report is submitted, for an ongoing test, which covers the first component of the IS 17899 T:2022 relating to biodegradability given at Sl. No. (i) or Sl. No. (ii) of Table 1 or Sl. No. (i) of Table 2 of the IS 17899 T:2022. There are no recognized international standards available of biodegradable plastics. The Bureau of Indian Standards notified tentative Indian Standard for Assessment of Biodegradability of plastics in varied conditions, in June, 2022, in line, with the definition of biodegradable plastics notified in Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022.

As per the IS 17899 T:2022, the biodegradable plastics need to achieve 90 % biodegradation within a maximum time period of two years, depending upon the test protocol. This is to ensure that no micro plastics are generated from degradation of biodegradable plastics in the environment. There is no certified biodegradable plastics in the country as on date. Central Pollution Control Board has developed Standard Operating Procedure for issuing Certificates to manufacturers / sellers of biodegradable plastic carry bags and commodities.

In order to save time and reduce repeated testing of biodegradable plastics, it has been decided that in cases where principal manufacturer/seller of biodegradable plastic has received test report for a product as per BIS standard, then the producers making the same product and using the same material, can use the test report of the principal manufacturer for the purpose of certification/registration with CPCB and do not have to undergo testing again.
