

Advisory from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
on 11th September, 2019 sent to all states

Dear Chief Secretary,

Please refer to d.o. letter No. 17-2/2001-HSMD from Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to the Chief Secretaries dated 6th September, 2019 wherein a set of Guidelines to address the menace of plastic waste had been forwarded. As you are aware, the Government of India has launched a campaign on September 11, 2019 led by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation to make the above a mass movement. In this regard, it would be useful to draw your attention to the role of local bodies and Gram Panchayats in taking immediate steps to ensure the success of the above campaign.

2. It is well appreciated that while plastic is a much used material for a variety of products, it is the littered plastic waste that goes uncollected leading to an environmental hazard. The Prime Minister's call upon all citizens in his address from the Red Fort on August 15 is an opportunity to spread awareness amongst citizens and galvanise them into action. This is expected to give much support to the existing Rule framework regarding plastic waste. It may be reiterated that under the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, all the producers that use plastic packaging for their products are required to collect back an equal amount of plastic waste under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework.

3. While the Guidelines circulated by the Ministry to the State Governments reiterated through the above referred letter to the Chief Secretaries offers a comprehensive medium term strategy, **the Ministry has prepared a brief advisory that can help in meeting the immediate ambition of the campaign launched by DDWS for the period 11th September-27th October, 2019.** The attached Advisory may kindly be implemented through all the local bodies/Gram Panchayats and be strictly monitored during the campaign period.

4. I may add that a successful awareness building and plastic waste collection drive during the above period would go a long way in the ultimate compliance of the PWM Rules 2016 in active partnership between all stakeholders.

With regards,

Anil Kumar Jain

Advisory on Single-Use Plastic

Single-use Plastic:

Single-use Plastics (SuPs), also often referred to as disposable plastics (use-and-throw items), are commonly used for packaging and include items intended to be used only once, before they are thrown away or recycled. Common SUP items are carry-bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery. While the plastic waste so generated needs to be collected back through Municipalities, Gram Panchayats, however, a large part remains un-collected. Hon'ble Prime Minister has given a call for elimination of SUP by 2022.

I Implementation of SUP phase out

Note: While 24 States and 6 Union Territories have issued State/UT specific regulations pertaining to curb the use of Single-use-Plastics, the following suggestions are to be added to the existing orders and/or to any new regulations as *an advisory*.

Next step (before 2nd October, 2019)

State / UT administrations should curb the production of the following SUP items:

- (a) All plastic carry bags, with or without handles, irrespective of thickness and size;
- (b) Plastic cutlery including plates, plastic cups/glass straws, stirrers etc.; and
- (c) Cutlery and other decorative made of Styrofoam (Thermocol). They may encourage manufacturers / consumers to shift to other environmental friendly materials.
- (d) Encourage organisations to find alternatives to Single Use Plastics.

II Action by Government offices / Public Sector Undertakings / Private Companies

- (1) All Government offices / Public and Private Sector companies and all other offices under the administrative control shall be declared single-use plastic free by curbing the use of above mentioned SUPs.
- (2) All Government offices / Public and Private Sector companies and all offices under the administrative control may be discouraged to use plastic products including:
 - (i) Artificial flowers, banners, flags, flower pots;
 - (ii) PET plastic water bottles;
 - (iii) Plastic stationary items like folders, etc.

- (iv) Any other plastic material for which an alternative exists.
- (3) All the institutions shall promote and practice source segregation in the office premises

III Waste management system improvements

- (i) States/UTs may support local bodies / Gram Panchayats in improving source segregation of waste. Waste collection and transportation systems may be standardized, and best practices may be inculcated. States/UTs and ULBs may focus on improving last mile delivery of collection and transportation services. The focus should also be placed on improving collection and transportation infrastructure and ensuring segregated waste is collected.
- (ii) All plastic waste generated / packaging industry may be called upon to implement the Extended Producer Responsibility by effectively collecting back plastic waste.

IV Supporting activities

Promotion of eco-friendly alternatives

State/UT Governments can play a key role in promoting eco-friendly alternatives in order to phase out single-use plastics progressively. Projects which support up scaling or recycling of single-use plastic items and promote small scale or micro enterprises, should be encouraged. Encouragement needs to be given for development of alternate packaging materials and SUPs.

Social Awareness and public education

- (i) Awareness / Sensitization campaigns should be organized throughout the State/UT through TV/Radio etc. to discourage the use of single-use plastic.
- (ii) All events organized by or sponsored by the Government shall be single-use plastic free.
- (iii) Government should try to invite eminent public personalities to serve as brand ambassadors or in any other capacity in the campaign to discourage the use of single-use plastic.
- (iv) Attention should be focussed on creating awareness / sensitization in hotspots of plastic usage including tourist spots, religious spots, beaches, pilgrimage sites, schools, colleges, etc.
- (v) Particular attending should also be focussed on students and young adults to inculcate a behavioural change in plastic usage. Changes in school curriculum should be introduced to discourage use of single-use plastics, promote the use of plastic alternate materials and promote source segregation.

V State Governments may emphasize the need to implement provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Plastic Waste Management 2016 for an effective synergy between waste collection of all types and their efficient disposal.