

## 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.

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