



Forum for Good Governance

Regd. No.653/2009

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L. No. FGG/CS/REP/ 121 /2022 28th September, 2022

To
The Chief Secretary,
Government of Telangana,
Hyderabad

Sir,

Sub: Plastics – Poor implementation of ban on Single use Plastics leading uncontrolled and indiscriminate use causing further damage to the environment- Request for strict implementation of the rules- Requested – Reg.

Ref: (1) GSR 571 (E) MoEF& CC, Govt. of India Dated 12th Aug 2021
(2) Govt of Telangana G.O. Ms. No. 40, E, F, S&T (For.III) Dept dated 1st July 2022

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Forum for Good Governance would like to bring the following issue to the notice of the Government of Telangana for examining and taking favourable action in the interest of environment and also in larger public interest.

Indiscriminate and unregulated use of plastics, particularly Single use Plastics (SUP), is assuming alarming proportion, whether it is in urban areas or rural, as plastics, particularly carry bags, are found littered everywhere. Plastics are found in dumping yards which ultimately find their way into storm water drains, sewage lines choking them leading to obstruction of flow of rain water/sewage. Even with slightest rain the roads are getting flooded leading to traffic chaos, particularly in Hyderabad city and other cities and towns besides damaging property and sometimes claiming human life.

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Government of India, in the reference 1st cited, issued Notification amending Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2021 prohibiting manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of SUP, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene commodities with effect from 1st July 2022. These items, which are non bio-degradable and difficult to collect as municipal solid waste or for recycling, cause severe pollution, and are found to be excessively used in spite of existence of alternatives. In consonance with the Govt. of India notification, the govt of Telangana, with a gap of more than 10 months, issued notification, in the reference 2nd cited, prohibiting the following SUP and also notified provisions for penal action.

- a. Ear buds with plastic sticks
- b. Plastic sticks for balloons
- c. Plastic flags
- d. Candy sticks
- e. Ice-cream sticks
- f. Polystyrene (Thermocol) for decoration
- g. Plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes.
- h. Invitation cards, and cigarette packets
- i. Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron
Stirrers.

The notification also specifies promotion of ecofriendly biodegradable alternatives and for creating social awareness and Public Education.

Apart from the above items, carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic, shall not be less than 75 microns in thickness till 31st December 2022 and after that, 120 microns. Sachets using plastic material shall not be used for storing, packing or selling gutka, tobacco and pan masala. Producer, Brand Owner and Importers need to work out collection back mechanism for the equivalent quantity of plastic waste introduced by them in the market to meet their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligation. Producer, brand owners, importers and recyclers have to register their firms with State Pollution Control Board (PCB). Multi-layered plastic packaging has to be co-processed and used as alternate source of energy in waste to energy, cement kilns, road construction and gasification.

In Telangana, the manufacture, import, stocking, transport, distribution and sale of Single Use Carry bags less than 75 microns is prohibited from 30th Sept 2002 and of less than 120 microns is prohibited with effect from 31st Dec 2022.

The notification also specifies that local bodies are responsible for development and setting up of infrastructure for segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of plastic waste either on its own or by engaging agencies and shall be responsible for setting up, operationalization and co-ordination of the waste management system.

There is a provision in the rules for imposing spot fine by local bodies and PCB, ranging from Rs.500 on individuals for using and littering SUP and Rs. 5,000 on institutional waste generators and upto Rs.2,00,000 on manufacturers, dealers, stockists, wholesalers, retailers apart from initiating prosecution if caught doing the offence third time

Apart from imposing heavy penalties on manufacturers, transporters and sellers of SUP and creating Public awareness, education & capacity building are very important issues for eliminating SUP. Consumer behaviour has to be shaped and encouraged through social awareness and education. Both electronic and print media can be utilised for giving wide publicity and children have to be made aware of perils of using SUP by incorporating in the school curriculum. Enforcement agencies must organize capacity building workshops for the involved stakeholders.

Unfortunately, widespread use of prohibited SUP continues in Telangana and the Authorities are not serious in implementing the rules. Hawkers, shopkeepers and General public hardly have any knowledge about the use of SUP. Banners are found everywhere. If strict action is taken on the manufacturers, transporters and sellers of SUP and they are made to switch over to biodegradable SUP and the problem will be solved.

The Chief Secretary is requested to view this issue with all seriousness and direct the concerned to strictly implement and give wide publicity

Yours Sincerely



M. Padmanabha Reddy

Secretary

Forum for Good Governance