

**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE**



Puducherry dated, 08.02.2019

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Polythene/plastic carry bags, plastic disposable cups and other single use Plastic items are being used widely in the Union Territory of Puducherry;

Polythene/plastic carry bags, plastic disposable cups and plastic sheets used for cooked food packing, plastic plates, water pouches, plastic straw and Styrofoam plates, cups and other single use plastic articles which are non-biodegradable, choke drains and sewerages and pollute air, water and soil and affect aquatic organisms. The polythene bags are also being used to deliver food stuffs and therefore pose health hazard to the public;

The collection and disposal of single use plastic articles are of great challenge in waste management. These articles are determinate during the composting process of other organic waste.

Government of India has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, wherein manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags, plastic sheets and cover made of plastic sheets of less than fifty micron in thickness have been prohibited.

Government of Puducherry had already prohibited usage, sales and stocking of polythene or plastic carry bag, disposal cups and plates of thickness 50 microns (or) below in the U.T. of Puducherry, vide G.O. Ms. No. 20/Envvt/209 dt. 09.12.2009.

It is brought to the notice of the Government that inspite of the above notification, the usage of single use carry bags and plastic disposable cups could not be eliminated completely.

Article 48-A of the Constitution of India, inter alia, envisage that the state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment.

Article 51-A (g) of the Constitution of India stipulate that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Notification No. S.O. 667 (E) dated the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1992 and sub-rule (3a) of Rule 4 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the following direction is proposed to be issued:

The below mentioned single use plastic items shall not be manufactured, supplied, sold, stocked, distributed, used and transported in the U.T. of Puducherry with effect from 01.03.2019:

1. Plastic sheet/cling film used for food wrapping
2. Plastic sheet used for spreading in dining table and plates
3. Plastic Thermocol plates
4. Plastic coated paper plates
5. Plastic coated paper cups
6. Plastic tea cups
7. Plastic tumbler
8. Thermocol cups
9. Water pouches/packets
10. Plastic straw
11. Plastic carry bag of all sizes & thickness
12. Plastic coated carry bags
13. Plastic flags
14. Non woven polypropylene bags

The plastic used for the following purposes are exempted:-

- (a) The plastic carry bags manufactured exclusively for export purpose.
- (b) The plastic bags which constitute or form an integral part of packaging in which goods are sealed prior to use at manufacturing/processing units.
- (c) The plastic bags and sheets used in Forestry and Horticulture nurseries.
- (d) The plastic used for packing of milk and milk products (dairy products), oil, medicine and medical equipments.
- (e) Carry bags made from compostable plastics bearing a label 'compostable' and conforming to the Indian Standard: IS or ISO 17088:2008 titled as Specifications for "Compostable Plastics".

**Explanation 1:** “Plastic” means, material which contains as an essential ingredient of high polymer such as polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, vinyl, low density polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene resins, multi-materials like acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, polyphenylene oxide, polycarbonate and polybutylene terephthalate.

**Explanation 2:** “Use and throwaway plastic” means, items such as plastic carry bags or plastic flags, plastic sheets used for food wrapping, spreading on dining table etc. plastic plates, plastic coated tea cups and plastic tumbler, water pouches and packets, plastic straw irrespective of thickness.

**Explanation 3:** “Plastic sheet” means one time use and throw away sheet made of plastic.

**Explanation 4:** “Carry bag” means bag made from plastic material, used for the purpose of carrying or dispensing commodities which have a self carrying feature but do not include bag that constitute or form an integral part of the packaging in which goods are sealed prior to use.

**Explanation 5:** The word “compostable plastic” means plastic that undergoes degradation by biological processes during composting to yield Carbon di-oxide, water, inorganic compounds and biomass at a rate consistent with other known compostable materials, excluding conventional petro-based plastics, and does not leave visible, distinguishable or toxic residue.

The following officers shall implement this direction in their respective Jurisdiction namely:

- (i) The Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee
- (ii) The Commissioners of Municipalities/ Commune Panchayats.
- (iii) The Tahsildar, Department of Revenue and Disaster Management.
- (iv) Food Inspector, Department of Food Safety.
- (v) Revenue Officers of Municipalities.

The Member–Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee shall act as the coordinator to implement the above orders. The Chairman and the Member Secretary are authorized to lodge complaints under Section 19 of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 vide Notification No. S.O. 394 (E) dated 16-4-1987, as further amended vide Notification No. S.O. 624 (E) dated 3-9-1996.

The public are requested to furnish their views/objection/suggestion in respect of proposal contained in this notice within 15 days to the Secretary (Env), Chief Secretariat, Puducherry

**P. PARTHIBAN, I.A.S.**  
**SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (ENVT)**