



ACTION PLAN FOR PHASING OUT OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 2020



INTRODUCTION

Single Use Plastics (SUP) is merged with part of modernized Civilization. The reasons are being low cost, easily available in market and hygienic. Unfortunately the other side of SUP is regrettable. It plays havoc in environment, particularly in the place of solid waste management it pose big challenges to this administration. Garbage mixed with plastic interferes in waste processing facilities and also cause problems in landfill operation.

U.T of Puducherry was identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as one of the city where plastic waste forms more than 10% of the total solid waste generated. Approximately 25 TPD tons of Plastic Waste is generated in the U.T. of Puducherry. Addressing industrial plastic waste is more successful when compare to domestic and market plastic waste. Government of Puducherry has imposed ban on lesser than 50 microns thickness plastic articles viz: Carry bags, Cups, and Plates vide Notification G.O. Ms. No. 20/Env.2009 dt. 09.12.2009. Subsequently Government of Puducherry has imposed total ban on Manufacturer, Transport, Sale and Usage of the following 8 Single Use Plastic articles with effect from 2nd August, 2019.

- (1) Polythene / plastic / Polypropylene carry bags;
- (2) Polythene / plastic / Styrofoam (Thermocol) cups;
- (3) Polythene / plastic / Styrofoam (Thermocol) plates;
- (4) Plastic sheet pouches used for cooked food wrapping;
- (5) Plastic sheets used for spreading on dining table;
- (6) Water pouches;
- (7) Plastic straw;
- (8) Plastic Flag.



Five Officers have been notified as implementing authorities of the Govt. Ban Order. Nevertheless, usage of Single Use Plastic has not been completely arrested in view non-availability of suitable alternatives. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is periodically reviewing the progress of phasing out of Single Use Plastics in the U.T of Puducherry under the Flagship Schemes.

This Action Plan has been formulated with the following components to make U.T. of Puducherry as Single Use Plastic free U. T. of Puducherry.

- 1) Intensifying inspection on manufacturer, stockiest and sale of Single Use Plastic.
- 2) Finding suitable alternatives for Single Use Plastic and ensuring “Supply Chain” through Self Help Groups
- 3) Declaring Model Commune as Single Use Plastic free
- 4) Declaration of Educational Institutes and Government Department as SUP free campus.
- 5) Establishing Collection Centre under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- 6) Scientific disposal of Plastic Waste
- 7) Formulation of IEC activities



1. Intensifying inspection on manufacturer, Stockiest and Sale of SUP

The following officers are notified as implementing authority of Government Order on ban on single Use Plastic.

- 1) The Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee;
- 2) The Commissioners of the respective Municipalities/ Commune Panchayats;
- 3) The Tahsildars of Department of Revenue and Disaster Management;
- 4) The Food Inspector, Department of Food Safety;
- 5) The Revenue Officers of the respective Municipalities;

It is proposed to form “**Single Use Plastic Squad**” for each municipalities/ Communes.

The squad will carry out surprise inspection to industries, stockiest and market place periodically. The squad will seize banned plastic articles and seal the premises of habitual violators.

Action: PPCC

Timeline: 1 Month



2. Finding suitable alternatives for Single Use Plastic and ensuring “Supply Chain” through Self Help Groups (SHG)

Non-availability of suitable Alternative for SUP is one of the constraints for strict implementation of the ban order. After conducting various field exposures, the following locally available materials are found to be best suitable alternatives.

- i) Low cost cloth, paper bags.
- ii) Banana leaf, Lotus, Lilly and Manthara leaves.
- iii) Areca nut pad
- iv) Paper cup and straw

Already trained Self Help Groups (SHG) are available in DRDA for making cloth bags and paper bags. Training need to be provided for processing of leaf for using it as food packaging materials. “**Supply Chain**” network need to be placed in the system for the uninterrupted supply of these low cost materials to the needy vendors . It is proposed to install a stall of these alternative materials in many parts of the State area. Financial assistance will be organized through Banks / NABARD etc.

Action: PPCC & DRDA

Timeline: 3 months



3. Declaring Model Commune as Single Use Plastic free

Towards compliance with the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its O. A. No. 247/2017 dated 6.12.2019, Central Pollution Control Board has directed all the States / UTs to identify Model District for implementation of institutional mechanisms for Plastic Waste Management. Accordingly Department of Science Technology & Environment has proposed Bahour Commune model Commune of Zero Single Use Plastic Commune”.

Action: PPCC

Timeline: 3 months

4. Declaration of Educational Institutes Religious places and Government Department as SUP free campus

Already two educational institutes viz. Tagore Arts College and Bharathidasan Womens College are declared as SUP free campus. It gives encouraging result. It is proposed to declare all the Govt. and Private Educational Institutes (School, College and University) as SUP plastic free campus.

All the Government Departments were requested to completely phase out SUP in their premises and functions.

Action: DSTE, Edctn Dept., Hindu Religious Institutions and GAD, Chief Secretary

Timeline: 3 months



5. Establishing Collection Centre under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

All the Brand Owners of consumable products having their production facility in Puducherry will be directed to establish their product waste collection centers under EPR.

All the paper cup manufacturing are ensured to collect their product waste by placing exclusive bin.

Action: LAD, PPCC

Timeline: 3 months

6. Scientific disposal of Plastic Waste

25 TPD of plastic waste is generated in the U.T. of Puducherry. Industrial Plastic Waste forms considerable quantity of the total waste. There are 15 Plastic Waste Reprocessing units are functioning in the U.T. of Puducherry. All the industrial plastic waste is ensured to challenged to reprocessing unit thereby avoiding mixing in solid waste.

Action: PPCC

Timeline: 3 months



7. Formulation of IEC activities

Already DSTE, PPCC and LAD have formulated many IEC activities like publication of posters, handbill and organized many programmes. It is proposed to shoot a documentary moving on the ill effect of usage of SUP and necessity of adopting other eco friendly alternatives.

Action: PPCC

Timeline: 3 months

