



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't.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 Secretariat

Timeline: 3 months



5. Establishing Collection Centers 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 in collaboration with Local Bodies.

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





**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLAN FOR PHASING
OUT OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC (SUP) IN THE U.T. OF
PUDUCHERRY**





1. Standard Operating Procedure for Intensifying inspection on manufacturer, Stockiest and Sale of SUP

- (a) Single Use Plastic Squad (SUPS) members will be informed the date and time of surprise inspection by the Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee (PPCC).
- (b) All the team members shall assemble at Commissioner office of respective Municipality / Commune Panchayats.
- (c) Spot for inspection (Unauthorized industry operation, Stockiest, Market) is decided among the team members.
- (d) Instrumentation for thickness monitoring of plastic items, camera and required accessories to collect sample will be arranged by PPCC
- (e) Materials for sealing process will be arranged by Tahsildars.
- (f) Station House Officer provide security force during inspection
- (g) Commissioner of concerned Local Body arranges manpower for seizing banned plastic items and vehicles for its transportation.
- (h) If any industry found to be involved in manufacturing of banned plastic products, power supply of the unit will be disconnected after following necessary statutory procedures.



- (i) If any stockiest found to be involved in stocking the banned products, the premises will be sealed by Revenue officials based on the PPC direction.
- (j) If any vendors involved in selling banned plastic products, all the banned products will be seized with the help of Revenue and Local body staff and the seized materials will be send to the respective Commissioner's office.
- (k) Seized materials will be disposed through authorized plastic waste recycler after following due tendering process.
- (l) Legal proceeding if any required shall be initiated by the Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee.
- (m) Joint press release will be issued by PPCC about the action taken during the inspection
- (n) A minimum of 10 inspections will be carried out in a month.





2. Standard Operation Procedure for Finding suitable alternatives for Single Use Plastic and ensuring “Supply Chain” through Self Help

- (a) Identification of suitable Self Help Group through DRDA and BDO.
- (b) Providing training to them to prepare alternative product for Single Use Plastic through DIC
- (c) Facilitate SHG to get loan from Bank by DRDA
- (d) Allot stall for sales of alternative products by Commissioners.
- (e) Ensure sustainability / continuous supply of the product and its profitable marketing by DRDA and BDO.
- (f) Getting advertisement from the industry about their product, printed in cloth bag thereby reducing the selling prize
- (g) Ensuring purchase of products from these stall for all the Government/Departments functions.





3. Standard Operation Procedure for Declaring Model Commune as Single Use Plastic free

- (a) Conducting periodical awareness programme in all the villages of the Communes about the ill effect of usage of Single use plastic.
- (b) Controlling availability of Single Use Plastic in the market by conducting regular inspection/checking.
- (c) Providing training to Self help Group and facilitating to avail loan from bank.
- (d) Propagation of alternative product for SUP by opening stalls throughout the Communes through SHG.
- (e) Selecting best village in the Commune for “Zero Single Use Plastic” and granting award during Independence Day by the Commissioner.
- (f) Documentation of success story.





4. Standard Operation Procedure for Declaration of Educational Institutes, Religious places and Government Department as SUP free campus

- (a) Director of School Education and Director of Hindu Religious Institutes are requested to declare all school campus and Religious place as Single Use Plastic Campus.
- (b) Puducherry Pollution Control Committee will place a sign board in this regard in all such places.
- (c) Alternative for single use plastics are made available in such premises through SHG by DRDA and BDO.
- (d) Necessary awareness posters, pamphlet and handbill will be distributed





5. Standard Operation Procedure for Establishing Collection Centre under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

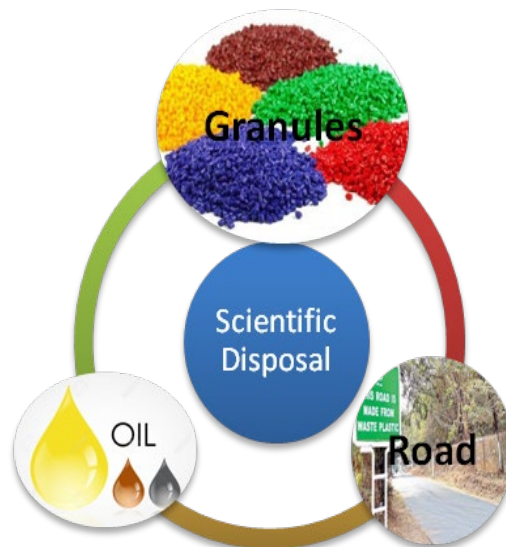
- (a) Identification of Brand Owners operating in the U.T. of Puducherry.
- (b) Setting up of Collection centre by Brand owner individually/jointly in association with Local Bodies under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and offer incentive for the waste deposited.
- (c) Creating awareness among the public to return the branded plastic waste to the collection centre.
- (d) Puducherry Pollution Control Committee will facilitate scientific disposal of collected Multilayer Plastic (MLP) waste from the Collection centres through preprocessing facility (or) co-processing.
- (e) Documentation of collected MLP waste.





6. Standard Operation Procedure for Scientific disposal of Plastic Waste

- (a) Inventorization of source wise plastic waste generation.
- (b) Devising of collection mechanisms.
- (c) Channelization of plastic waste into recycling unit through authorized rag pickers.
- (d) Pursuing Public Works Department and Local Administration Department to use plastic waste for road making and PPCC will facilitate to get suitable quantity and quality of plastic waste.
- (e) Encouragement of R&D activities in the field of plastic waste utilization.





7. Standard Operation Procedure for Formulation of IEC activities

- (a) Electrical awareness van will be purchased from CPCB sponsored project.
- (b) Documentary movie about ill effect of usage of Single Use Plastic will be shot.
- (c) Posters, pamphlets and hand bills will be printed out.
- (d) Electrical awareness van will go to schools, colleges, market place, religious places etc. and screen the documentary film.
- (e) Carry out periodical beach cleanup activity in collaboration with NSS, NGC and NGO.
- (f) Street Play, painting competition and rally will be organized in association with Education Department.
- (g) Awareness message will be broadcasted in electronic media.



Alternatives for Single Use Plastic items

