

## Haryana strengthens regulatory framework for PWM



The Government of Haryana in June 2019 issued a state wide ban on plastic water bottles in government offices calling for the use of bottles of alternative materials such as glass, steel, aluminium etc., instead. In May 2020, the Panchayat Raj Model Bye-laws on Plastic Waste Management were framed and circulated to all Gram Panchayats for strict compliance. The State Government has also constituted a special task force, comprising of senior officials from various departments for taking measures to eliminate single use plastic (SUP) in a mission mode.

As per the ban of 2019:

- Products made of recycled plastics cannot be used for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging ready to eat or drink stuff;
- Plastic sheets which are not an integral part of multi-layered packaging and covers made of plastic sheet used for packaging, wrapping the commodity cannot be less than fifty microns in thickness except whether thickness of such plastic sheets impairs the functionality of the product.
- Sachets using plastic material cannot be used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, pan masala and tobacco.
- Plastic material, in any form including Vinyl Acetate – Malefic Acid – Vinyl Chloride Copolymer, cannot be used in any package for packaging gutkha, pan masala and tobacco in all forms.

Thereafter, on 01-05-2020, the Haryana Panchayati Raj Model Bye-Laws on Plastic Waste Management were framed and circulated to all the DCs, ADCs, DDPOs and BDPO for compliance. The Development and Panchayats Department, Haryana had also prepared a draft of the Bye-laws in English and Hindi, keeping in view the mandate of the PWM Rules of 2016, asking GPs to publish those bye laws on Plastic Waste Management for strict compliance, so that conditions of sanitation can be regulated in villages.

The GP Plastic waste management Bye-laws of 2020 which they are now called, apply to all Gram Sabha areas. In this too, the same products listed in the 2019 notification about the ban on plastic bottles were listed.

The notification also states that plastic waste should be managed by the GP within its jurisdiction. While the plastic waste which can be recycled should be channelised to registered plastic waste recyclers; that which cannot be recycled should be channelled to Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) plants/pyrolysis plants or any other technologies. The standards and pollution control norms specified by the prescribed authority for these technologies should be complied with.

Mentioning that the inert from recycling or processing facilities of plastic waste should be disposed of in compliance with the SWM Rules, the notification also condemns the open burning of plastic. Moreover, it states that any contravention of the bye-laws is punishable with fines listed in the same notification.

In June 2021, the State Government issued yet another notification stating that the Governor of Haryana has constituted a special task force, comprising of senior officials from various departments for taking measures to eliminate single use plastic in a mission mode, mentioning their key functions.