

More plastic items to be banned

Government notifies Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Come July next year, the manufacture of a range of plastic products will be banned. These include earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic flags, ice-cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plates, cups, cutlery such as forks, spoons and knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns, and stirrers.

The Environment Ministry on Friday notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibit specific single-use plastic items which have “low utility and high littering potential” by 2022.

Plastic packaging waste is not yet covered under the phase-out of single-use plastic items. The Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha in



Green approach: Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns will be banned, the government said.

July its proposal to phase out some categories of single-use plastic by 2022.

A draft outlining the way forward was issued in March and involved amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Currently the rules prohi-

bit manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags and plastic sheets less than 50 microns in thickness in the country.

There is a ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or sell-

ing gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.

At the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019, India piloted a resolution on addressing pollution caused by single-use plastic products.

The Ministry, in a note on Friday, said the waste management infrastructure in the States and the Union Territories was being strengthened through the Swachh Bharat Mission.

They had been “requested” for setting up of a special task force for elimination of single-use plastic and effective implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

A national-level task force had also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single-use plastic items and effective implementation of the waste management rules, 2016.