D.O. No. 17/1/2017-HSMD

Dear Secretary,

With the increasing efforts taken by the people of India in reducing plastic pollution, it is indeed going to be a journey in which everyone's participation is critical. The central government and its organisations need to lead by example. We will all have to work hand in hand to scale down the use of plastic wherever possible and contribute to the cause of developing a cleaner, greener and safer environment.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (PWMR, 2016) to manage plastics in an environmentally sound manner throughout their life-cycle. A number of States / UTs have implemented Regulations supplementing PWMR, 2016 to manage plastic pollution. Several States and UTs have introduced notifications completely banning plastic carry bags and/or single-use plastic items such as food packaging, cutlery etc.

Pursuant to Hon'ble Prime Minister's call to curb single use plastics by 2022, Standard Guidelines for Single Use Plastics were issued to various States/UTs and all Ministries in January 2019 and the same were reiterated in September 2019. In this regard, I had written to you earlier also on 13th June, 2018 and 13th February, 2020 (Copies enclosed).

I would like to draw your attention, specifically to PVC/plastic folders being indiscriminately used in governmental institutions and offices for short term purposes. Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC), a plastic polymer, is a non-biodegradable material and if burned, releases toxic fumes such as dioxins, furans etc. The harmful toxins may get bio-accumulated in the food chain of ecosystems causing a serious hazard to human health and environment.

In order to combat plastic pollution, reduction in use of avoidable plastics is necessary. Therefore, use of PVC/plastic folders in government offices should be strictly avoided. Alternatives such as paper or card board folders, jute folders etc can be used in the offices. Such a step will help strengthen our national resolve to combat plastic pollution in the country. A sample of paper/card board folder that may be used in Ministries/Government Institutions is enclosed herewith.

I would urge you to adopt usage of such folders and stop use of PVC / plastic folders hence forth.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Encl: as above.

[Signature]

[Stamp]

Secretary to the Govt. of India
All Departments / Ministries

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C.K. Mishra