

ON DAY 1 OF BAN, GOVT ANNOUNCES COLLECTION POINTS FOR PLASTICS

A day after the Maharashtra government banned plastic bags & cutlery, and thermocol, environment minister Ramdas Kadam said collection points will be set up across the state where citizens, retailers and manufacturers can dispose of all the banned items for a month, reports Bhavika Jain



18TH STATE IN THE COUNTRY TO IMPOSE PLASTIC BAN

PENALTY AFTER 1 MONTH Minimum fine ₹5,000 Maximum fine ₹25,000
3 month jail for repeat offenders

NO MORE STRAWS OR THERMOCOL DECORATION

ITEMS BANNED | Plastic bags regardless of thickness | Thermocol, products manufactured from it | Thermocol decoration material | One-time use plastic cutlery like plates, cups, spoons, straws | Non-woven polypropylene bags | Sheets spread on beds, ground | Pouches | Secondary packaging material | PET and PETE bottles up to 0.5litre

FLYING IN? LEAVE IT AT AIRPORT

Collection points to be set up at airports, railway stations, bus stands

TAKEAWAY BOXES ARE ALLOWED

WHAT'S EXEMPTED?

- Take-away containers if they are reusable
- Packaging material for medicines, garbage bin liners
- Covers & bags used in manufacturing process (such as chips, biscuit wrappers)
- Milk pouches over 50 microns thick, PET & PETE bottles

PUSH FOR JUTE, CLOTH BAGS

- State government considering incentivising purchase of cloth, jute & paper bags
- Other options** | Glass, bamboo, wood, paper mesh cutlery

STICKING POINT: FISH, CURD AND JUICE

- How to buy meat, fish, milk and curd in loose? Use steel, re-usable plastic containers
- How to have fresh fruit juice, tender coconut? Use glasses



MAHA BURDEN

- 950 bottle units in state
- 455 plastic bag, container units
- 1.2cr PET bottles manufactured per day
- 30L sub-500ml PET bottles circulated per day
- 25L 500ml bottles circulated per day
- 4L Tons of waste every year
- 3-5% of all waste is plastic

CRUSHING MACHINES FOR BOTTLES

- Recycling charge on milk pouches, PET bottles
- 50 paise on milk pouch
- ₹1 on 500 ml PET bottle
- ₹2 on 1 litre PET bottle
- Smaller bottles banned
- Return them to any retailer, get refund
- Also dispose it in recycling machines to be set up in many areas, get refund

CITIZEN GROUPS TO KEEP AN EYE

- Municipal staff, block development officer to implement ban & fine violators
- Govt to seek help from interested citizens and groups
- They can only alert officials if they find use, storage of banned items
- Shopkeepers will have to give undertaking while renewing licence they will not store banned item; else licences will be impounded

GOVT TO RECYCLE ALL BANNED PLASTIC MATERIALS

Govt confident recyclers who use plastic as raw material will buying them



Plastic can also be used for laying of roads, industrial grade fuel, even garments

