



# पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय स्मृति संस्थान

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पंजीयन क्रमांक 31/ कोटा, 95-96

DUSS/ENV/1008/2015

Date: 15th January, 2015

The Honorable Minister,  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Room No.348; 'A' Wing,  
Nirman Bhavan,  
New Delhi – 110011  
India.

Respected Sir,

## **Sub: Plastic Packaging – A grave threat to Health, Environment and Ecology**

We draw your kind attention towards the global and national issue of plastic menace causing severe impact on health, environment and ecology due to rampant increase of plastic packaging material.

Around 70% of plastic consumption is dumped as plastic waste (Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report dated June 2013). Moreover, the growth of plastic waste in urban India is evident from the fact that plastics as a % of Municipal Solid Waste has increased from 0.65% in 1999 to 12% in 2011, and is expected to cross 20% in 2014, as per the study done by IIT Delhi in April 2012.

The rampant use of polythene bags, PET bottles and Tetra Pack (multilayer plastic) have adversely affected the health of citizens, due to leaching of antimony, lead, cadmium and phthalate into its edible contents. India, being amongst the hottest and humid countries of the world (classified under zone IV as per ICH guidelines) has the greatest risk of increased leaching, especially in plastic packaging of liquor, carbonated soft drinks and medicines. This is proven by the National Test House (Under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution) and IITR (Indian Institute of Toxicological Research) Reports.

The same packaging material when dumped post usage adversely affects the soil and water due to release of toxic gases and leaching of hazardous carcinogenic elements causing cancer, cardiac respiratory disorders, malfunctioning of reproductive systems (Study by Indian Institute of Toxicological Research, CSIR released by CPCB, November 2012).

The Ministry of Environment & Forests intervention by introducing, "Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 has addressed the issue of plastic waste by prohibiting use of polythene bags and sachets (for paan masala, tobacco and guthka) only. The scope of this Rule needs to be expanded to cover other similar intoxicants like liquor, packed in any form of plastic immediately, and needs to be enforced strongly through institutional measures.

Despite the fact that the plastic packaging material is down-cycled and not recycled which ultimately contributes to earth filling, increasing toxicity of water and soil affecting human health

(CPCB Report 2013), PET bottles and tetra packaging is growing rampantly purely for commercial benefits without any check.

Developed countries have taken serious note of the situation and responded to the issue like France has become the first country to suspend Bisphenol A in all food packaging and production & use of medical tubing containing DEHP phthalate for pregnant woman, infant and new born, Denmark has imposed ban on DEHP, DBP, DIBP and BBP phthalate, European Parliament has resolved to ban hazardous plastic and certain plastic bags by 2020 and San Francisco has banned sale of plastic water bottle on city property.

In such a grave situation of deteriorating health, environment and ecology, causing unaffordable cost to citizen of India and at the time of Government's initiative of "स्वच्छ भारत अभियान" and response from developed countries, we request you to kindly take up following steps for betterment of health of residents of India while protecting environment and ecology of Mother Earth:-

1. Government of India should prohibit the use of plastics and tetra packaging in undesirable intoxicant like liquor immediately in the first stage.
2. Implement notification dated 29th September, 2014 issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding prohibition of use of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) in liquid oral formulations for primary packaging of drug formulations for pediatric use, geriatric use and for use in case of women and women of reproductive age group. (Notification of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
3. In the second stage, Government of India should prohibit the use of plastic and tetra packaging in non-essential items like carbonated soft drink.
4. In the third stage, Government of India should prohibit the use of plastic and tetra packaging in all edible items.

The above steps will help citizens by ensuring better health, lower social cost to Government for health and environment preservation. This will also be a furtherance of goal and objective of "स्वच्छ भारत अभियान".

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely

For Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Smruti Sansthan,



(Vinod Shukla)

Chairman

Enclosure: Annexure A to Annexure J

Annexure	Description	Annexure	Description
A	IIT Delhi Report - Municipal Solid Waste	F	Migration Testing Reports
B	CPCB IITR - Soil Leaching Report	G	Global Research on Plastics
C	Non- Recyclability of Plastics	H	Phthalate Leaching Report
D	Khwaja Committee Report	I	Ban Notifications around the world
E	Comments of Eminent Professionals	J	Notification of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.