

**Department of Environment, Science & Technology**  
**Paryavaran Bhawan, Near US Club, Shimla-1**

**Proceeding of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Special Task Force regarding implementation of Single Use Plastic in the State of Himachal Pradesh, held on 06.04.2022 at 3.30 PM at Eilerslie Committee room, HP Secretariat, under the Chairmanship of Sh. Ram Subhag Singh, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.**

1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Special Task Force, regarding implementation of Single Use Plastic Himachal Pradesh was chaired by Sh. Ram Subhag Singh, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Govt. of on dated 06.04.2022 (3.30 P.M.) at HP Secretariat, Shimla. Meeting was attended by the following:

- i. Sh. Prabodh Saxena, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary (Env. S&T)
- ii. Sh. Ashish Singhmar, IAS, Labour Commissioner, Deptt. of Labour and Employment
- iii. Sh. Sudesh Kumar Mokhta, IAS, Director, DEST, HP
- iv. Sh. Rakesh Prajapati, IAS, Director, Deptt. of Industries
- v. Ms. Kritika Kulhari, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Solan.
- vi. Sh. Apoorv Devgan, IAS, Member Secretary, H.P. State Pollution Control Board.
- vii. Sh. Satpal Dhiman, Addl. Secretary (Env. S&T)
- viii. Sh. Hitesh Azad, Addl. Director, Youth Services and Sport.
- ix. Er. Parveen Gupta, Addl. Director, DEST, HP
- x. Dr. Suresh C. Attri, Pr. Sci. Off (Env.), DEST, HP
- xi. Ms. Rakhee Singh, Joint Director, Urban Development Deptt.
- xii. Er. Chandan Singh, Assist Env. Engineer, HPPCB
- xiii. Sh. D.C. Thakur, MISO, DEST, HP
- xiv. Dr. Manum Sharma, EMEO, DEST, HP
- xv. All Deputy Commissioners of Himachal Pradesh & Regional Officers of State Pollution Control Board (*Attended virtually through VC*)

2. At the outset the Addl. Chief Secretary (Env. S&T) Sh. Prabodh Saxena Addl. Chief Secretary (Env., Sci. & Tech.) welcomed the worthy Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh & members of the Committee. He informed that this is the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of State level Special Task Force constituted for taking measures to eliminate single use plastic in mission mode in the State of HP on dated 9/2/2022.

He briefed the participants about the purpose of the meeting and apprised that MoEF&CC has notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 3, 6 & 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Vide Notification No G.S.R. 320 (E) dated March 27, 2016. Subsequently, MoEF&CC issued Notification, dated August 12, 2021 which mandated banning of identified SUP items and prescribed minimum thickness of carry bag with effect from July 01, 2022. Thereafter, agenda item wise PPT was presented by the Deptt. of Environment, Science & Technology w.r.t. proposed strategy.

3. The Pr. Sci. Off (Env.) made a detailed ppt and explained about initiatives taken by State so far and informed about meetings convened by Govt. of India on 24/2/2021 followed by National Task Force 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held on dated 31/8/2021 with certain directions to the States:

- a) Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021 to be implemented by States.
- b) Constitution of Special Task Force to work in this issue in mission mode (Constituted on dated 09.02.2022).
- c) Launch of targeted and wider awareness campaign.
- d) Different groups targeted to achieve objectives, e.g.

- i. Essay Competition among students
- ii. Organizations like NCC, NSS , Nehru Yuva Kendra etc.
- iii. Hackathon among students and start ups to promote innovations in the areas of alternate materials, recycling, circular economy etc.

4. The participants/ members of State Task Force and District Level Task Force were also informed about standard Terms of References as notified by Govt. of Himachal Pradesh:-

- i. Prepare a comprehensive Action Plan for implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and phasing out of SUPs, with identified activities and timelines and synergizing efforts and resources of various Department/Agencies at State, District and City Level.
- ii. Assess plastic waste generated in State with respect to collection, recycling and disposal and identify gaps in plastic waste management (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) policy, implementation, enforcement, infrastructure etc.
- iii. Strengthen policy, regulatory, institutional mechanism/structures for the implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules (PWMR), 2016 and phasing out of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in the State, design appropriate management strategies and allow for allocation of financial resources for PWM including leveraging of funds from Swachh Bharat Mission.
- iv. Take measures for effective enforcement and monitoring implementation of (1) Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, and (ii) State specific ban imposed on identified single use plastic items.
- v. Develop policies for supporting the adoption of alternatives to identified single use plastic items prohibited under PWMR, 2016, as amended.
- vi. Take measures to strengthen ULBs/GPs for segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing, and disposal of plastic waste.
- vii. Prepare a detailed roadmap for activities to build awareness and outreach among public on plastic waste management and reduction in the use of SUP items.
- viii. Develop strategy for building a strong public movement for mitigation of plastic pollution by involving education institutions (schools, colleges, universities), NCC, NSS, Scouts, Youth clubs. Eco clubs, Opinion makers and voluntary organizations with a detailed action plan in this regard.
- ix. Nodal Departments responsible for implementation shall be Department of Urban Development in Municipal areas and Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj for Rural areas.

5. After the ppt the worthy Chief Secretary reviewed the district wise status of action taken reports. He emphasised that though the State of HP is already proactively dealing with menace of single use plastic but still there is huge responsibility to control the littering and use of plastic carry bags etc. in the state. He also reviewed the progress w.r.t. implementation of plastic buy back policy at district level and expressed his concern over the poor performance. He said that the all efforts be made for institutionalization of the buyback policy and plastic waste management and handling rules at local level.

He said that all the stakeholders, responsible agencies and district shall initiate actions in following manner:

- a) Engage with stakeholders Local/ Distt. Admn., Deptts. UDD, RDD, Industry etc.
- b) Regulatory compliances, Control Littering, Phasing out SUP.
- c) Strengthen regulatory regime for phasing out identified single-use plastic items (low utility and high littering potential)
- d) Identify fostering innovation for alternatives of single use plastics.

- e) Focus on waste management infrastructure and strengthening of institutional mechanism – Town & Gram Panchayat level.
- f) City level Action Plan
- g) Awareness generation and behavioral change (development of public movement
- h) Reporting, Monitoring & Evaluation

6. The State Task Force members agreed with the proposed indicative Action Plan for Elimination of identified Single-Use Plastics in the State as was presented by the Nodal deptt. DEST in following manner:

- a) Policy and regulatory framework
- b) Institutional mechanism
- c) Management of littered single use plastic items
- d) Plastic waste management including single use plastics
- e) Enforcement of ban imposed on the use of identified single use plastic items at District / ULB /GP level.
- f) Plastic recycling infrastructure and end of life disposal facilities
- g) Development and promotion of alternatives to prohibited single use plastic items and promoting innovation
- h) Data collection and monitoring mechanism
- i) Awareness generation and capacity building
- j) Action taken for reducing /elimination of single use plastic items in State/UT Government offices, attached /subordinate offices, PSUs/organizations.

7. After detailed discussions following decisions were taken:

- i. State level Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) to implement Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021 to eliminate Single Use Plastic (SUP) shall be prepared within seven days by the Director (DEST) in technical consultation with Director (UD), Director (RD), Member Secretary (PCB), Additional Secretary (Env.,S&T) & Engineer-in-Chief (PWD).
- ii. The draft copy of Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) shall be circulated to all members of State level Special Task Force, District level Task Force, Stakeholder departments and shall also be hosted on official web site of the DEST for comments and innovative ideas from general public as well.
- iii. DEST shall also see and consult CAPs prepared by other Himalayan States and incorporate suitable actions for state of HP, if any.
- iv. State level CAP after incorporating comments etc. shall be finalized within 15 days and shall be submitted to the Govt. of India.
- v. As per the suggestion from Deputy Commissioner, Kullu; General Manager (Industries) of the concerned districts shall also be included as member in District level Task Force constituted on dated 9/2/2022, the Addl. Chief Secretary (EST) may issue the necessary notification in this regard.
- vi. The delegation of Powers to various officers/ legal provisions for checking of violations under PWM (Amendment) Rules 2021 shall be notified after consulting with the Law Department in view of the powers already delegated under HP Non-biodegradable (Control) Act, 1995.
- vii. DEST shall circulate the PPT presented during the meeting to all members of State level Special Task Force & District Level Task Force and host same on its official web site.

- viii. All the Deputy Commissioners shall direct the concerned ULBs, PRIs and PWD at district level to expedite the implement the Plastic Waste Buy Back Policy as per the guidelines issued by the DEST.
- ix. In order to facilitate the authorities designated to check violations under HP Non-biodegradable (Control) Act, 1995, SPCB shall establish laboratory at RO level to test and check authenticity of compostable plastic carry bags/ items supplied by vendors in the State.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.

Approved by

**(Ram Subhag Singh, IAS)**

Chief Secretary to the Govt. of H.P.  
the Shimla, dated: 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

No. AA

CC Enclosed to the following for information and further necessary action:

1. Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries) to the GoHP, Shimla-2.
2. Addl. Chief Secretary (Labour & Employment) to the GoHP, Shimla-2.
3. Addl. Chief Secretary (Rural Development & Panchayati Raj) to the GoHP, Shima-2.
4. Addl. Chief Secretary (Env.,Sci.&Tech.) to the GoHP, Shimla-2.
5. Principal Secretary (Urban Development) to the GoHP, Shimla-2.
6. Principal Secretary (Education) ) to the GoHP, Shimla-2.
7. Secretary (Youth Services & Sports) to the GoHP, Shimla-2.
8. Director, Department of Env., Sci. & Technology, Shimla-9.
9. Member Secretary, HP State Pollution Control Board, Shimla-9.
10. Director, Department of Information & Public Relation, Shimla-2.
11. State Co-coordinator, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 (Rural)
12. Project Officer, State Co-coordinator, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 (Urban), Deptt. of UD, Shimla-2.
13. State Co-coordinator, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 (Rural), Deptt. of RD, Shimla-9
14. All Deputy Commissioners, all Regional Officer's SPCB (Shimla, Baddi, Solan, Kangra, Chamba Bilaspur, Sirmaur, Una, Kullu), in respective of Districts.

  
**(Prabodh Saxena, IAS)**

Addl. Chief Secretary (Env. S&T) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-HP.