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Draft

Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Group to finalize the proposed amendments to Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests to finalize the proposed amendments to the Recycled Plastic Rules, 1999 and 2003. The meeting was attended by Dr. A.B. Akolkar, Additional Director and Dr. S.K. Nigam, Sr. Scientist from Central Pollution Control Board, Shri A.K. Agarwal, Joint Industrial Adviser, Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals and Dr. Vinod K. Agarwal, Deputy Director, Bureau of Indian Standards.

While welcoming the participants, Shri Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary ^{observed} mentioned that the amendment to the Rules has become necessary ^{in order} ~~so as~~ to improve the plastic waste management in the country. He also briefly mentioned the orders of Delhi High Court ^{in this regard} in this regard. ^{of Delhi and the}

The representative of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals was of the view that further deliberations are required for identifying alternative packaging materials as well as their manufacture/distribution options. He ^{further} enquired about the reasons/justification for the proposed increase in the size and thickness of the plastic bags and the enforcement mechanism ^{of these} ~~etc.~~ These ^{issues were} ~~comments~~ were deliberated upon ^{at the meeting} in the meeting. The rationale for the increase in size and thickness of carry bags is to enhance segregation by the rag pickers ^{the proposed} and facilitate recycling of carry bags. The issues of manufacturing and enforcement of standards were also discussed. Based on the inputs from participants, the draft Rules ^{were} ~~have been~~ redrafted (Annexure). The representative of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals expressed reservations on the proposed ban of non-recyclable laminated plastic pouches, multilayer packaging, shampoo pouches & other non-recyclable plastics etc. He observed that these packaging ^{are} ~~were~~ economical and useful in preserving food quality and nutritional value and are prevalent in most countries. He therefore, urged the Committee to further discuss this issue.

After discussion, it was agreed that the revised draft will be circulated to all participants ^{for} ~~for~~ further inputs before sending these to the Ministry of Law and Justice for vetting for publication in the Gazette of India ^{inviting public comments.}

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.
