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To,
 Dr. Harsh Vardhan
 Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and
 Climate Change
 New Delhi


Waste To Wealth and Employment – Plastic Water Bottles

Respected Sir,

Learning from your Ministry's initiative during World Environment Day in Jun 2018 we embarked upon a journey of "Plastic Waste Free India". Bharat Mata is bearing the burden of Plastic Waste and Our Sangh has taken a pledge to relieve Bharat Mata from the pain of Plastic Waste.

Our karyakartas, all over India, have started explaining about GOOD PLASTIC and BAD PLASTIC through Seminars, Conferences, Nukkad Natak. The citizens of India are not aware about basic differences between various plastics and deem all plastics as bad. We have started an education drive across the states to realize our dream of making India - a plastic waste free nation. We also working with the various rag pickers associations of India (total strength of Ragpickers in India: 50lacs official) to strengthen the plastic waste collection and recycling in our country. Inclusion of Ragpickers in the formal waste management ecosystem of our country is a must to win the battle against plastic waste. While, this will ensure plastic waste collection and recycling, it will also help rag pickers (Anthoday the thoughts of Pt.Deendayaji) to avail health, education benefits, safety gear and social security for their services towards protecting the environment

BAD PLASTIC- Bad Plastics are the ones which we irresponsibly litter, which are dumped in landfills, and get submerged inside the ocean. Our beloved Gau Mata eat Bad Plastic. Bad Plastics are Plastic Carry Bag, Plastic Cups, Plastic Cutlery, Plastic Straws etc. Bad Plastics generally do not get collected and contributes heavily in our nation's plastic waste crisis. There is no recycling value of such plastics and poor people like ragpickers do not get paid if they collect Bad Plastics.


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Our Sangh is committed in educating masses, to stop the use of Bad Plastics. We strongly recommend that Bad Plastics should be banned so that Bharat Mata can breathe a sigh of relief.

GOOD PLASTIC - All Plastics are not bad. There are Good Plastics also which is 100% recyclable

We have come across Plastic Water Bottles which are useful as explained below.

1. Plastic Water Bottle is the **largest recycled plastic in India** and world-wide with a recycling rate of **80% plus**. These bottles are made of PET.
2. **After PET Bottles get discarded, they get Upcycled** i.e. most of the products made from PET Bottles are sold at value higher than PET bottle itself. It is one of such rare products available to the Industry.
3. After recycling, PET Bottles get converted to items like carpets, upholstery, soft toys, T shirts, Jackets, Pillows, Quilts, Recycled fabric bags, Suits, Jeans, Sports Dresses, Furniture, strap and many more value-added items. Because of immense possibilities of making such varied products, it is a very valuable material.
4. **Livelihoods of at least 50 lakh rag-pickers** across the country are linked to collection of discarded PET Bottles. These ragpickers in turn **supply collected bottles to 2000 balers** through a network of lakhs of Kabaadiwalas. The baled bottles are used to make fibres, yarns and strap by over 150 recyclers (42 fibre producers and rest being Strap and sheet producers).
5. The baled bottles get sold at close to Rs 40 per kg – hence presence of discarded PET Bottle is a way to enrich lives of ragpickers by their engagement in collection.
6. Though PET Bottles and Ragpickers have mutually benefited each other, but industry is conscious of prevention of littering and also help ragpickers move fast up the economic ladder. Hence, to achieve these objectives, a lot of Industry participants have embarked on investing in collection system like Reverse Vending Machines, Smart Bins, Shredders, Compactors and these machines are linked to reward system i.e. consumers get paid through discount coupons or funds into Ewallet. Railways and Gujarat Government put together have come out with tender of close to 15,000 machines.
7. A lot of waste collection system start-ups have come up around Delhi NCR to promote Swacch Bharat.

Inclusion of Ragpickers in the formal waste management ecosystem to address the problem of waste collection, segregation and recycling in India

Ragpickers are the unsung heroes of the India's waste management and recycling story, without them our nation's waste problem would have been much worse. Ragpickers sustain themselves by collecting, sorting, segregating waste and then trading it to the scrap dealer/recyclers. We need to establish an ecosystem to segregate waste at source by making ragpickers, recyclers and waste processors an integral part of waste collection and management ecosystem, working closely with the local municipal bodies. Our focus should be on creating an organized collection & recycling mechanism, which promotes recycling of plastics like 100% recyclable PET (water, juice, oil, cola bottles) and HDPE (Shampoo bottles, chemical containers). The registration of rag pickers will help them in availing health benefits, safety gear and social security for their services towards protecting the environment.

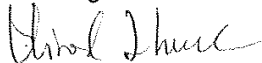
Currently, ragpickers work without any job security, salary or dignity. Not just that, they are regularly exposed to cuts, infection, respiratory diseases and tuberculosis apart from poverty, humiliation, harassment, and sexual abuse on the streets.

Respected Harshvardhanji, you must have heard our Respected PM Shri Narendra Modi while addressing the world during UN award ceremony of 03-October-2018 that "there are plastic products that are very useful and those we need to recycle". By above he referred to Plastic Water Bottles which are very useful for recycling.

Newspaper reports like published by Hindustan Times on 29-Sep-2018 mentioned that Your Ministry is planning to consider Plastic Water Bottles under "SINGLE USE PLASTIC" but plastic water bottles are multi-purpose and 100% recyclable. *This move would be disastrous for Bharat Ki Janata as nearly 60 lakhs people will get unemployed and a lot of ground level industries will be affected severely.*

We would like to meet in person and discuss about the above in detail.

Warm Regards



VINOD SHUKLA

National President

Pt.Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Sansthan