



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Environment Department- Plastic ban - Plastic bags used to collect bio medical waste from Health care institutions - Exempted from the list of banned items- Orders issued

ENVIRONMENT(B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.6/2020/ENVT Dated Thiruvananthapuram 11/05/2020

- Read 1 G.O.(Ms) No 2/2020/Env dt 27.1.2020
2 G.O.(Ms) No.4/2020/Env dt 16.2.2020
3 Representation dated 16.2.2020 submitted by Indian Medical Association, Kerala State Branch

ORDER

State Government have imposed a complete ban on single use plastic items in the State w.e.f 1.1.2020 and as per Govt. orders read as 1st paper and 2nd paper above, have issued further orders clarifying the substitute materials that could be used as an alternative for the banned items. As per the existing orders only bags made of compostable material should be used for collecting biomedical waste.

After the issuance of the above order, Indian Medical Association Kerala State Branch represented before the Government explaining the difficulty faced by the medical sector in collecting biomedical waste in compostable bags. Due to the peculiar nature of hospital waste, the collection and disposal of these wastes in compostable material is not feasible and hence they may allowed to use Biomedical Waste Management Colour Coded bags for collecting bio medical waste as they have been doing earlier. IMA directly supplies these barcoded colour bags and accounted till these bags reach the treatment stage in the Biomedical waste management facility.

Government have examined the matter in detail and hereby exempt Biomedical Waste Management Colour Coded plastic bags used specifically to collect biomedical waste from the purview of ban. The bags should carry IMAGE logo/Barcode for identification. IMAGE should make sure that such bags reach the treating stage and in the event of any such bags found on road sides those bags will be brought under Extended Producer Responsibility(EPR) and they will have to pay a fixed amount to Government as EPR fee, guidelines for which will be issued shortly.

Government is also contemplating to replace plastic packets

used in shops/supermarkets to store pulses, sugar, flour etc with Compostable materials. However the Supermarket Welfare Association expressed apprehension over the suitability of compostable materials for this purpose. Hence for scientifically validating the issue Government hereby constitute a three member committee with the following members to study and recommend to Government the feasibility of replacing plastic packets with compostable materials.

1. Prof.Kurwilaj oseph, Sr.professor, IIST
2. Dr.Ansari, IIST
3. Dr.Rajesh, CIPET

(By order of the Governor)
VALSA.V
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

To:

The Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change
The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board
The Director, Department of Urban Affairs
The Director, Panchayath Department
Prof.Kurwilaj oseph, Sr.professor, IIST
Dr.Ansari, IIST
Dr.Rajesh, CIPET

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

Copy to : PA to Principal Secretary, Environment Department
Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department