

THE ALL INDIA PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

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ARBITRARY SEIZING OF PLASTIC BAGS DEVASTATES INDUSTRY, RETAILERS

The Plastics industry has come out strongly against the arbitrary and high-handed manner of the Maharashtra Government responsible for the seizing of plastic bags and products across the state without any notification or warning. Mr. Akhilesh Bhargava, Chairman of Environment and Recycling Committee of the All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) added that along with the Plastic Industry suffer the anticipated ban will completely or partially shut all affiliated industries like, Food, Pharma, Medical, Garment, Retail Chain, etc., which would lead to mass Job loss in the State. Maharashtra state will also lose revenue as business will shift to other states. GST loss to the state will also added by closing the industries. Plastics Manufacturers Social Welfare Association President Mr. Jagannath V Kamath said that the Plastic Industry size in Maharashtra is close to 2150 Units with direct employment of around 2 Lakh people and indirect employment of nearly 4.5 Lakh which include traders, recyclers, etc.

According to Mr. Harshit Mehta, President of the Thermoformers and Allied Industries Association, stocks of plastic and thermocol items were seized from some shops in Pune and the owners were fined for 'using plastic and thermocol'. Shopkeepers are in a dilemma as their stocks have been sealed and they were fined without any prior warning or intimation.

Mr. Ravi Jashnani, President of the Maharashtra Plastics Manufacturers Association, says the State Government needs to come clean as to how these things happened since this chaotic situation has created considerable panic. The

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proposed ban will undoubtedly cause the common man to suffer the most. Moreover, there are a great many people whose livelihood is dependent on plastics and this ban will lead to large-scale unemployment. Also, there are many manufacturers whose businesses are funded with loans, so banning plastics will leave them heavily in debt, added Mr. Jashnani.

Mr. Akhilesh Bhargava request's the government to carry out proper Environment Impact Assessment and Life Cycle Analysis of alternatives as against Plastics before implementing or phasing out Plastics from that sector.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra State Environment Minister Mr. Ramdas Kadam, on Monday, appealed to manufacturers of plastic carry-bags to shun plastic and resort to making cloth bags while reassuring them that ample time will be given to dispose of the plastic bags which are in stock. Today only with the ban announcement more than 50% purchase in the retail chain has reduced due to fear of ban. People have stopped stocking items packed in Plastic Bags.

The Maharashtra Government has budgeted Rs 5 crore to provide free cloth bags to its citizens, this announcement is a sign of biased support towards one specific industry and let the other industry suffer. Such biased support will lead to mass Job losses and closer of a prospering industry which caters to about 30% of India's GDP and around 35% of Maharashtra's GDP.