

Plastic Waste in the Country

Several reports have published data or information on plastic production and plastic waste generation. These reports vary in their country-wise projections on account of data sources and assumptions along with methodologies for making projections. In so far as, plastic waste generated in the country, based upon information provided by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to Central Pollution Control Board, the quantity of plastic waste generation during the period 2018-19 to 2022-23 is given below:

Financial Year	Plastic waste Generation (TPA)
2018-19	3360043.45
2019-20	3469781.73
2020-21	4126808.44
2021-22	3901802.06
2022-23	4136188.83

As amended, the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, provide a statutory framework for environmentally sound plastic waste management

in India. These rules not only mandate but also empower urban local bodies and gram panchayats to take charge of managing plastic waste, including its collection, and prohibit the open burning of plastic waste.

Revolutionizing Waste Management: India's Pioneering Extended Producer Responsibility for Plastic Packaging

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging, a monumental initiative notified in 2022 under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, aims to revolutionize the waste management sector, encompassing the collection, segregation, and processing of plastic waste nationwide. The scale of this initiative is evident in the registration of 2,614 Plastic Waste Processors (PWP) under the EPR Guidelines and the processing of approximately 103 lakh tonnes of plastic packaging waste reported on the Centralized EPR portal for plastic packaging.

The Government of India, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to waste management, provides additional central assistance to States and Union Territories for solid and plastic waste management under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). Under Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II (Grameen) [SBM (G)], the establishment of Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs) is a testament to the government's proactive role, with financial assistance of up to ₹16 lakh per block for construction. PWMUs can also be set up in cluster mode for multiple blocks within the funding limits for those blocks.

Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)

Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), additional central assistance is provided for solid waste management, including plastic waste management. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs funds initiatives such as Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), as outlined in the SBM-U 2.0 Operational Guidelines. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) plays a crucial role in this process, overseeing the 4,446 MRFs in the country, with a total processing capacity of 31,427.2 TPD.

The ban on identified single-use plastic items, effective from 1st July 2022, is a significant step towards reducing pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste. Along with the EPR for plastic packaging, this ban is expected to have a profound impact on reducing plastic pollution.

References

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2083801>

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