

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
4, Fairlie Place, 2nd Floor
Kolkata - 700 001

No. EN/ 330 /T-V-1/002/2004

Date: 4th March, 2004

MEMORANDUM

Indiscriminate littering of plastic carry-bags has seriously affected our immediate environment. Apart from causing visual pollution, these carry-bags clog the drainage system and lead to water logging - a matter of concern in Kolkata and other towns of West Bengal. Plastic wastes also prevent the natural aeration of land and water bodies and hamper agriculture and pisciculture. Coloured or recycled plastic carry-bags are hazardous to human health. Animals die by inadvertently ingesting plastic carry-bags.

The Government of India have banned the manufacture and use of plastic carry-bags of thickness below 20 microns and size 8" X 12". The use of recycled or coloured plastic bags for carrying food-stuff has been prohibited for health reasons. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has, in addition, banned all kinds of plastic carry-bags in ecologically sensitive areas, namely, the Sunderbans, the coastal and the forest areas of the State, and the district of Darjeeling and in various heritage or tourist sites in the State.

In view of the pollution caused by plastic waste and its serious adverse effects, it has been decided that the Government Office buildings should be free from plastic garbage.

It is therefore, ordered that the use of all kinds of plastic carry bags as well as plastic cups and containers less than 4" in height and 40 micron thickness, is banned in all Government buildings and Offices.

2. The Departmental Secretaries and the heads of offices will enforce the order in their respective departments, attached and subordinate offices and other bodies/agencies.
3. A notice regarding the ban on plastic carry-bags and plastic cups, etc., should be put up at prominent places in the office buildings for the information of all concerned.
4. This order will take immediate effect.


Sd/-
(Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal)

NO. EN/ 330 /T-V-1/002/2004/1(6)

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Copy forwarded for information and circulation among the Heads of the offices under his control :-

- 1) Principal Secretary/Secretary.....,Department.
- 2) Divisional Commissioner.....Division.
- 3) District Magistrate.....District.
- 4) Superintendent of Police.....District.
- 5) Director of Treasuries.
- 6) Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board


(MAHFUZ ALAM) WBCS (Exe.)
Joint Secretary