

'Ban is on single-use plastic – a small %age of the entire industry'

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With only 10 more days to go before the ban on single-use plastic in Tamil Nadu comes into effect, there's so much tension/resistance, mainly from the side of plastic manufacturers in the state. Here, P Amudha (IAS), Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration, who's one among the regional coordinators to facilitate the plastic ban in TN, addresses concerns raised by the plastic manufacturers, talks about alternatives, and more. Excerpts.

What are your thoughts on the resistance shown by different plastic manufacturers in Tamil Nadu against the state government's ban on single-use plastic from January 1?

One must understand that plastic is important for many things. We are targeting only avoidable, throwaway plastics now, which could be around 3% to 5% of the entire plastic products used in the state. We're not targeting the entire gamut of plastics items that's being produced. So, the idea is to protect the environment by trying and educating citizens that they have alternatives for single-use plastic. This apart, by avoiding plastic, we can ensure that people get safe food also. Being a food safety commissioner, I am also concerned about the quality of food people consume. Some of these items that are used for packing are carcinogenic. So, we want to drive home two points — save environment and save health.

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#PLASTICGOTTAGO



P Amudha

WE ARE SOMETIMES TOO LAZY TO CARRY A CLOTH BAG WHEN WE LEAVE OUR HOMES AND SUDDENLY DECIDE TO GO SHOPPING. AT THE SHOP, YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE AND YOU END UP ASKING FOR A PLASTIC CARRY BAG. WE SHOULD CHANGE THAT ATTITUDE