

TN ready to put in place plastic ban by Jan 1: Min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Tamil Nadu government is ready to implement the ban on plastic across the state from January 1, 2019, as announced, and one month was enough if a road map is in place, minister for environment K C Karuppannan has said.

A committee was studying various issues and alternatives and would submit a report with solutions in a month, the minister said on Monday during a review meet at the TNPCB office. "People in the state have an aversion towards plastic and are willing to shift to alternatives. We will implement it successfully," he said. On reports that municipal corporations and local bodies were clueless about the implementation, Karuppannan said the government order had specified the products that would be banned.

► 'Not overnight', P 4

Plastic ban won't be implemented overnight: Min

Karuppannan said, "Once we get the report from the committee we will inform the government about our recommendations. Then a month before the map is drawn up, the local bodies will be ready to implement the ban".

The committee formed would look into plans drawn up by a few other states in an effort to avoid the mistakes made, the minister said, adding that the government was also looking at alternatives and giving everyone enough time to switch to them.

"We will not implement the ban overnight. We will create a lot of awareness," he said, adding that officials had begun meeting various cement companies who would look to purchase non-bio degradable plastic.

A half-tonne capacity incinerator to burn plastic and manufacture fly ash had been set up at Nasimur town panchayat in Erode district and a three-month trial completed.

A few officials had visited Japan recently and



File Photo

The committee formed would look into plans drawn up by a few other states in an effort to avoid the mistakes made

were drawing up plans to generate electricity from waste, he said.

"The cost is an issue and we are holding discussions on how to reduce the rates," the minister said.

On complaints that the existing ban on plastic items less than 50 microns thick not being implemented properly, he said frequent checks were conducted and material seized. "We will close down all these illegal units soon..."