

TN plastic ban to cover biscuit, food wrappers

Sivakumar.B@timesgroup.com

Chennai: The state government will soon extend the ban on plastic to packaged products like biscuits and other eatables manufactured by multinational companies, environment minister K C Karuppannan told the assembly on Friday. The ban is now limited to 16 types of plastic material, he said.

Raising the issue during the debate on thanking the governor for his address to the assembly, DMK member Geetha Jeevan, representing Tuticorin, said the government banned the material used by small-time traders, selling flowers and food items on streets. "But not all types are banned. Will the government ban these too," she asked.

Almost all department stores and supermarkets stock eatables and other kitchen products packed in coloured plastic ware, she said. "Most of these are manufactured by big companies like ITC."

In reply, the minister said



Use of cloth bags has jumped manifold after the ban

that soon messages would be sent to manufacturers of plastic used to package eatables as that is also against the environment. "In June last year, soon after the CM announced the ban on 16 types of plastics from January 1, we divided the state into 6 divisions. In each division, an IAS officer was put in charge to create awareness about the dangers of using plastic. We gave six months for traders and others using plastics to change their packaging material," he said.

► No job loss, P 12