

Plastic coated paper cups may be exempted from ban

Exemption Mooted Due To Their Wide Usage

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Trichy: Minister for environment and pollution control department, K C Karuppannan said that ban on paper cups is being reconsidered by the government and may be allowed for use.

Plastic coated paper cups are among the 14 types of plastic products that are banned by the state government with effect from January 1, 2018. Karuppannan said that it may be given an exception considering its wide usage.

He was addressing the zonal awareness meeting on



K C Karuppannan, minister for environment and pollution control department, addressing the zonal awareness meeting on plastic pollution free Tamil Nadu at SRM hotel in Trichy

plastic pollution free Tamil Nadu at SRM hotel in Trichy. Officials from five districts including district collectors and ministers took part in the meeting organised by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and Trichy district administration.

"While paper cups are wi-

dely used to consume hot beverages, they are banned mainly because of the plastic coating inside the cups," said the minister.

"Plastic constitutes up to 6% of the paper cup in the form of a thin coating inside the cup to make it water proof. We are contemplating to

reduce the plastics coating to 4%. A decision would be taken in a couple of days," Karuppannan said.

While the ban will come into effect from beginning of next year, a government order will be passed in a couple of days on the penalty to be imposed in case of violation of the rule.

Karuppannan said that there is positive response from public on the ban as they have realized the need to ban plastic. Above all, the ban will only help farmers as their eco-friendly products would serve as an alternative to the banned plastics.

While a senior faculty from NIT-Trichy explained the types of plastics and its composition, dean of Mahatma Gandhi memorial government hospital (MGMGH), G Anitha spoke on the possible diseases that are on the rise due to the usage of plastic.