

Soon, go green when shopping

Manoj Sharma
New Delhi, January 19

YOU ARE eco-conscious and want to reduce your carbon-footprint, but find it pretty inconvenient to carry a bag when you go shopping. So, you end up bringing home all your purchases in plastic bags.

But now you run the risk of a jail term or fine or both as the Delhi government recently notified a ban on "use, storage and sale" of plastic bags under Environment Protection Act. But do not worry. Soon you could have an eco-friendly and cost-free solution.

People's Action, a city-based advocacy group, on Monday unveiled a proposal called E-Bags Exchange, a scheme under which it will provide retailers eco-friendly bags free of cost.



Illustrations: ABHIMANYU

The retailers can sell these cloth bags — available for Rs 5, 10, 15, 20, depending on the size — to customers who can return these bags and get a refund whenever they want.

"The project takes into account practical difficulties of environment. Retailers whom we plan to sign up as partners will offer their customers a pay back guarantee," said Sanjay Kaul, president of People's Action.

The group has already filed a patent for the process based on circulation

ALTERNATIVE TO PLASTIC BAGS



Jute bags

Long lasting, eco-friendly, re-usable



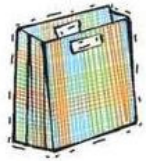
Cloth bags

Sturdy, re-usable, light to carry



Paper bags

Very cheap and easily available



Synthetic bags

Can be easily folded, light to carry

methodology. These E-bags (exchange bags) can be identified with a bar-coded tag stitched to them.

The group is in talks with Mother Dairy, Big Bazaar, Subhiksha and other retailers in this regard. People's

Action also plans to rope in resident welfare associations (RWAs) with a view to popularising the scheme with residents and local retailers. "We will closely work with RWAs to encourage residents to use these bags," said Atul Goel, president of United RWAs Joint Action (URJA).

The group also plans to outsource the making of these bags to the families of Blue Line bus victims and women of JJ clusters.

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GLOBAL BAG BOOM

The trend of "going green" — living life in an environment friendly way — is fast catching on across the globe. In the US, the growing popularity of reusable bags has become a social phenomenon. No wonder big retailers such as Whole Foods, a natural foods giant, dropped plastic bags and switched to paper bags. Now, it stocks only reusable bags at its stores, with prices starting at 79 cents for a medium shopping bag to \$25 for an organic cotton tote.

RWA group pushes for 'bag exchange' project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 19

AN RWA group is seeking to patent an eco-friendly bag usage system after plastic bags were banned in Delhi.

Working on the assumption that customers would not like to carry their own bags after the government ban on plastic bags, People's Action, a confederation of RWAs, has approached Mother Dairy and retail chains Big Bazaar and Subhiksha to adopt its "bag exchange" programme.

As part of the "e-bag exchange project", customers while making their purchases will also purchase a bag. They will, however, be able to return the bag(s) and get a full refund.

People's Action is ready to supply cloth bags for the system, which they claim will be free of cost for both consumers and retailers. "We are working on the assumption that people would not like to carry a bag with them when they go for shopping. Instead, the retailer will stock the bags and give the customer a refund when he or she returns the bag. The bags will thus be circulated," Sanjay Kaul of People's Action said.

"We are in talks with Mother Dairy for implementing this system.

Government notifies hazardous waste rules

The Delhi Government has notified Hazardous Waste Rules. As per this, any person who meets with an accident relating to hazardous waste can get compensation from the deputy commissioner. Highly toxic industries, like leather tanning and steel making, are not allowed to function in the city. According to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 153 industrial units in Delhi have submitted bank guarantees of Rs 13,375 crore in order to comply with the Hazardous Waste Rules.

They are very supportive of the idea. We applied for a patent for the idea last September," Kaul said.

The bags would be priced at Rs 10, 15, 20 and 25 and will come with an attached price tag. The group plans to rope in wives of Blue Line bus drivers for making the cloth bags.

Customers will, however, pay for the bag in case it's torn.

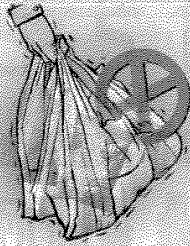
वापसी की गारंटी वाला मिलेगा इको बैग

प्रमुख संवाददाता नई दिल्ली

प्लास्टिक थैलियों पर प्रतिबंध के विरोध में जहाँ व्यापारी सड़क पर उतर आए हैं, वहीं एक स्वयंसेवी संगठन 'पीपुल्स एक्शन' ने इसका विकल्प खोज निकाला है। पीपुल्स एक्शन के इस प्रस्ताव पर काम शुरू होने के बाद ग्राहक दुकानदार से सामान के साथ-साथ बैग भी खरीदेगा और कुछ समय बाद वह बैग दुकानदार को लौटा कर पैसे वापस ले लेगा। पीपुल्स एक्शन ने इस अभियान का नाम 'इको-बैग्स एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम' दिया है।

इसके लिए पीपुल्स एक्शन ने मदर डेरी, बिग बाजार, स्पेंसर्स, सुभिक्षा जैसे बड़े उपभोक्ताओं वाले समूहों से बात की है और उनसे अपील की है कि वे इस तरह के बैग अपने ग्राहकों को मुहैया कराए। परियोजना की प्रमुख सोनाली अग्रवाल का कहना है कि मदर डेरी के साथ उनकी बातचीत अंतिम दौर में है। पीपुल्स एक्शन के

- दुकानों में ही मिलेगे बैग, बाद में लौटाने की होगी व्यवस्था
- मदर डेरी, बिग बाजार, स्पेंसर्स से बातचीत अंतिम दौर में



अध्यक्ष संजय कोल के अनुसार इस अभियान के तहत पहले दुकानदारों को साझा संस्थान के रूप में शामिल किया जाएगा। इसके बाद संस्था की ओर से दुकानदार को पांच, दस, 15, 20 रुपये वाले बैग दिए जाएंगे। दुकानदार ग्राहकों को पै-बैक गारंटी के साथ बैग उपलब्ध कराएगा। ग्राहक अपनी जरूरत के मुताबिक बैग खरीदेगा और फिर

किसी दिन बैग लौटाकर अपने पैसे वापस ले लेगा। ये बैग जूट, कपड़े और स्क्रैप से बने होंगे, जिन्हें आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर तबकों की महिलाओं व ब्लू लाइन बसों के शिकार लोगों से बनवाया जाएगा।

कोल के मुताबिक अभियान में दिल्ली के सभी आरडब्ल्यूए, युनाइटेड आरडब्ल्यूए ज्वाइंट एक्शन (ऊर्जा), पर्यावरण पर काम कर रही संस्थाएं तपस, ग्रीन फोरम, यमुना जिये अभियान आदि भी शामिल होंगी।

प्लास्टिक के कारोबारी कोर्ट जायेंगे

नई दिल्ली। प्लास्टिक की थैलियों के इस्तेमाल पर रोक लगाने की सरकारी घोषणा पर आल इंडिया प्लास्टिक इंडस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन ने एतराज जताया है। इस मुद्दे को लेकर अपना आंदोलन जारी रखते हुए लोगों के घोंच जाने का फेरसला किया है। इस पर भी सरकार खामोश रही तो वह अदालत को शरण लेये।

एसोसिएशन द्वारा आयोजित एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में अध्यक्ष रवि कुमार अग्रवाल ने आरोप लगाया कि सिर्फ प्लास्टिक की थैलियों पर पाबंदी लगाकर पर्यावरण की रक्षा

नहीं की जा सकती है। दिल्ली में सरकार पाबंदी लगाती है तो जिन वस्तुओं का आयात किया जाता है, उन्हें प्लास्टिक पैकिंग से कैसे मुक्त किया जायेगा। बिना बेहतर विकल्प के रोक लगाना मुनासिब नहीं है। इससे प्लास्टिक उद्योग से जुड़े कारोबारियों, कारीगरों और दुकानदारों को रोजी-रोटी प्रभावित होगी। मुक्ति पर कॉन्फ्रेंस में आफ आल इंडिया ट्रेडर्स के महासचिव प्रवीण खंडेलवाल ने कहा बिना वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था के प्लास्टिक थैली पर रोक को सरकारी दमन की संज्ञा दी। (प्र.सं.)

E-bags: Zero cost alternative to polybags

Jute, cotton bags
won't pinch shoppers

METRONOW REPORTER

A week after the Delhi government put a blanket ban on the use of plastic bags, a voluntary organisation has come out with a "zero cost" alternative to the pollution-causing carrybags.

The jute and cotton bags developed by People's Action will cost the shoppers no extra penny. Also, for the traders it is a one-time investment cheaper than polybags, says People's Action activist Sanjay Kaul.

The bags will be made available to the customers for security deposit of Rs 5, 10, and 15 at the business outlets. The customers may return the bags at the month-end or at convenience and take the money back, Kaul said.

The bags, stitched by economically weaker section women, can be reused and are organic products causing no pollution.

Customers can identify the bags, termed e-bags, under the exchange process with a bar-coded tag, which is stitched to each bag.

People's Action is already in touch with Mother Dairy for use of the bags, which would be among the first chain to use such bags.

The environment activists have hailed the idea. "It could save thousands of crores in clean-up actions that we are facing due to plastic use," Vinod Jain of NGO Tapas said.

"We are going to collaborate with People's Action on this proposal as well," Udayan Namboodiry of Green Forum said which procures jute bags from West Bengal and distributes through self-help groups locally.