



Anoop Kumar Srivastava <anoopksindia@gmail.com>

## Request to ban certain single-use plastic items on health ground

1 message

**Anoop Kumar Srivastava** <anoopksindia@gmail.com> 30 September 2020 at 14:31  
To: secyhfw@nic.in

Dear Shri Rajesh ji,

Greetings from the City of Greater Noida!

Let me first introduce myself. I am Anoop Kumar Srivastava, a retired IAS officer of 1981 batch. I have been Secretary to the Government of India too before my retirement.

After my retirement in August 2018, I have set up an NGO called "Foundation for Campaign Against Plastic Pollution". The Foundation is engaged in an aggressive campaign against plastic pollution, essentially through creation of awareness, education and advocacy. For more details of our organisation, you may kindly browse through its website <https://capp.org.in> at your convenience.

Last year, I wrote to your predecessor and requested her to ban certain single-use plastic items on health grounds. A copy of my letter dated 19-09-2020 is attached herewith for your ready reference.

I am writing this email to reiterate our request to ban plastic cups, plates, tumblers, cutlery, foamed plastic food containers and PET bottles on health grounds.

We understand the Government is under no obligation to reply to NGOs, but we would highly appreciate your gesture if you choose to reply indicating what action has been or proposed to be taken on our letter dated 19-09-2020.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

**Anoop Kumar Srivastava**  
Founder-Director  
Foundation for Campaign Against Plastic Pollution  
Regd. office:  
66, Greenwoods Govt Officers Welfare Society Phase-2  
Sector Omega-1  
Greater Noida-201315  
Mobile: +91-99588 06956  
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## Stop Single Use Plastics - Save Earth



**Foundation-CAPP-4-2019-1-with annexure.pdf**

478K



# Foundation for Campaign Against Plastic Pollution

No. Foundation/CAPP/4/2019/1

Dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

Dear Preeti,

I am Anoop Kumar Srivastava, a retired IAS officer of 1981 batch. I am Founder-Director of the NGO "Foundation for Campaign Against Plastic Pollution", a section 8 company. Our website can be seen at <https://capp.org.in>

2. First of all, I heartily congratulate you on your stellar achievement of securing Cabinet's decision to ban e-cigarettes. This indeed is a welcome and much needed step to protect health and lives of people across India.

3. You may be aware of the hazards that certain single-use plastics have on human health, apart from being environment unfriendly. In this respect, I would like to draw your kind attention to a report of the UN Environment titled "Single-Use Plastics: A roadmap for Sustainability" released in 2018. This report can be downloaded from the website of UNEP at <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/25496> However, I am attaching a soft copy of the report with email copy of this letter (no printed copy attached with hard copy of this letter). The report covers health hazards of single-use plastics at several places. For your facility, I am also attaching a page citing a few relevant excerpts (not comprehensive) from the report. However, I recommended that entire report may be gone through.

4. We in the Foundation for Campaign Against Plastic Pollution are of the view that certain single-use plastic items such as plastic cups, plates, tumblers, other plastic cutlery, foamed plastic food containers and PET bottles containing drinking water, etc should also be banned on health ground, as in case of e-cigarettes, as these items have health hazards. If you find that the abovementioned report of UN Environment does not provide enough evidence of hazards of single-use plastics on human health, you may kindly ask the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to conduct research/study into health hazards of single-use plastics and thereafter take an informed decision in the matter.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Anoop Kumar Srivastava) 19/09/2019

Ms. Preeti Sudan, IAS  
Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Department of Health & Family Welfare  
Room No. 156-A, Nirman Bhawan,  
New Delhi - 110011

## **A few relevant extracts from the report of UN Environment titled “Single-Use Plastics: A roadmap for Sustainability”**

Most plastics do not biodegrade. Instead, they slowly break down into smaller fragments known as microplastics. Studies suggest that plastic bags and containers made of expanded polystyrene foam (commonly referred to as “Styrofoam”) can take up to thousands of years to decompose, contaminating soil and water. (page vi)

Plastic waste causes a plethora of problems when it leaks into the environment. Plastic bags can block waterways and exacerbate natural disasters. By clogging sewers and providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes and pests, plastic bags can increase the **transmission of vector-borne diseases like malaria**. High concentrations of plastic materials, particularly plastic bags, have been found blocking the airways and stomachs of hundreds of species. Plastic bags are often ingested by turtles and dolphins who mistake them for food. There is evidence that the **toxic chemicals added during the manufacture of plastic transfer to animal tissue, eventually entering the human food chain**. **Styrofoam products, which contain carcinogenic chemicals like styrene and benzene, are highly toxic if ingested, damaging the nervous systems, lungs and reproductive organs. The toxins in Styrofoam containers can leach into food and drinks**. In poor countries, plastic waste is often burned for heat or cooking, exposing people to toxic emissions. **Disposing of plastic waste by burning it in open-air pits releases harmful gases like furan and dioxin**. (page vii)

As previously mentioned, plastic waste and microplastics, if ingested by fish or other marine life, can enter our food chain. **Microplastics have already been found in common table salt and in both tap and bottled water**. Although in recent years research on the effects of microplastics has been growing, still little is known about the exact impacts on human health. (page 14-15)