Summary of Meeting

A meeting for National framework for EPR under PWM Rules, 2016 was organized on Friday, 31st May, 2019, 03:45 pm at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ritesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC. Representatives from several organizations, processors, and brand owners were present.

Mr. Singh presented National framework for EPR under PWM Rules, 2016 which proposes two models, one through EPR corpus fund which is a fee based model involving ULBs, Recyclers, and SPCBs. While, another one is through PRO. Mr. Singh invited associations to comment and provide relevant inputs.

- Mr. Hiten Bheda, from AIPMA suggested that,
  - Since bulk of the Indian producers are in MSME segments; it is view of the industry that small producers processing less than 1000 metric tons of material or having turnover up to 25 crores be excluded from the scheme except for a lump sum fee based on total turnover.
  - Also, the trade bodies and associations be accepted as aggregators for discharging EPR obligations of their members.
  - The EPR scheme should be uniform across India as any anomaly between states will complicate its implementation.
  - He also emphasized on seeking clarity on the usage of recycled material for non-food contact packaging applications as prescribed in Maharashtra ban notification.

- Sentiments among leading industries associations were as follow;
  - Polluter pay is contradictory to EPR.
  - Revised framework should come out as an amendment to PWM Rules.
  - The scope needs to be clarified for industry w.r.t collection and/ or segregation.
  - EPR should be brand, geography, and substrate neutral.
Leading producers suggested mono-family waste recycling and are seeking clarity on bioplastics and their recyclability.

Mr. Ritesh Kumar Singh asserted that portal will soon be in place and assured that a draft notification would be release by the end of next month and in next six months, final guidelines and system components would be in place.

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