

Eco-friendly plastic roads in HP

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“Constructing roads from polythene” is a new project that the Himachal Pradesh government has embarked on to rid the state of polythene menace.

After the use of polythene was banned in the state last year, there have been huge stocks in the state, which the government decided to utilise for metalling the roads.

The proposal envisages metalling more than 250 km long roads in six zones of the state. After a successful experiment in Nurpur district, the task is in progress in Shimla for the road connecting the city to the airport, a distance of 15 km.

The state under the scheme would purchase plastic waste at Rs3 per kg with an additional rupee as handling charges. “The rag pickers engaged would thus be keen to segregate the plastic waste for recycling purposes and make money”, said a senior official.

The State Government would extend fiscal incentives to panchayats, urban bodies and individuals for contributing towards proper collection of waste plastic in their respective areas.

Out of 1200 to 1500 tonnes of solid waste collected during the first phase of campaign, 50 to 60 tonnes contained plastic waste which would be used in the metalling of roads. Besides using the shredded plastic in the construction of roads, cement plants are also being motivated to integrate solid waste management mechanism into their plants to generate electricity. Cement kilns at ACC Barmana and Ambuja Cements, Darlaghat have already started co-processing of plastic

waste.

In order to ensure maximum involvement of the district administration and other government agencies in the environment protection campaign, Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal awarded a running trophy to the joint winning districts of Shimla and Kangra who also shared a cash prize of Rs 50,000 each.

A special award for the collection of quantum waste was awarded to Solan district. Municipal Committee Dharamshala bagged the first prize of Rs one lakh,

The first phase of ‘Polythene Hatao-Paryavaran Bachao’ launched in December last year had received an overwhelming response from the people of the state.



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