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## Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141 b

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### Why in News

**India** has successfully phased out **Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141 b**.

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** notified that the issuance of import license for HCFC-141b is prohibited from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 under **Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019**.

- **Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019** have been issued under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- This step is among the first at this scale in **Article 5 (special status of developing countries) parties** under the **Montreal Protocol**.

### Key Points

- HCFC-141 b is one of the most powerful ozone-depleting chemicals **after Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)**.
- It is mainly used as a **blowing agent** in the **foam manufacturing industries**.  
In India, the foam manufacturing sector is a mix of large, medium and small enterprises having varying capacities, with the preponderance of **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- HCFC-141 b is not produced domestically and all requirements were met through imports.
- India is one of the few countries that are pioneer in the use of non-Ozone Depleting technologies and have a **low Global Warming Potential (GWP)**.
- The Ministry also adopted a **structured approach** to engage with foam manufacturing enterprises for providing **technical and financial assistance** in order to transition to non-ODS and low GWP technologies under the **HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP)**.

**Source: PIB**