



Plastic Industry

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Plastic manufacturers, in a recent meeting with government, have called for **export promotion schemes** for Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) in the **plastic industry**.

- The manufacturers have sought allocation of **25% of the land available at all industrial corridors** for MSMEs at discounted rates.
- The industry also sought **world-class infrastructure for MSMEs** under the Public Private Partnership model comprising physical infrastructure, knowledge infrastructure, incubation centres, e-platforms, B2B access and technology and innovation support for MSME.
- The industry appealed to the government to make **lending to MSMEs more convenient**.
- It also demanded **direct tax exemption on export income** and income generated directly or indirectly from indigenisation as well as import substitution exemption for a period of five years.
- It also asked for the **removal of anti-dumping duty on plastic processing machines** not made in India.

Challenges to the Plastic Industry

- Plastics have taken up a sizeable chunk of the **municipal solid waste streams** and hence are posing an environmental issue.
 - Plastics, being a polymer derived from crude, are made up of long chains of carbon. It takes years for them to decompose completely.
 - Improper disposal of plastics leads to groundwater pollution, disturbance in soil microbial activity along with releasing of carcinogenic chemicals in the atmosphere leading to health issues among people.
- **Availability of raw materials** such as Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC), **Polypropylene** (PP), **Polyethylene** (PE), being linked to crude prices.
- **Anti Dumping Duty on machineries** imported by the plastic processors.

Suggestions

- Producing **Bio-plastics** which are made from renewable materials such as biomass.
- Promoting **plastic waste management infrastructure** in the country.

Source: TH