

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3409**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

**Measures to curb stubble burning**

3409. SHRI MANISH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the burning of paddy straw/stubble of crops in various States, including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, is a major cause of air pollution in Delhi and in urban areas in these States;
- (b) what other pro-active measures and financial incentives are the Central and State Governments taking to discourage this practice apart from prohibition of the burning of paddy straw or stubble; and
- (c) whether this straw or stubble would be utilised for economically valuable activities like building material or mushroom cultivation etc. and whether Government has any policy on this?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) to (c) Burning of crop residue in States such as Haryana, Punjab, Western U.P. may lead to higher level of air pollution specially during adverse meteorological conditions in early winter in North India. The Government has approved a new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi for the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs. 1151.80 crore. Under the above stated scheme, financial assistance to the tune of 80% shall be provided to the Co-operative Societies of farmers, Self-Help Groups, registered Farmers Societies / farmers groups, Private Entrepreneurs, Group of women farmers or self-help groups etc. for establishment of farm machinery banks or custom hiring centres of in-situ crop residue management machinery. Financial assistance to the tune of 50% of the cost of machinery/equipment will also be available to individual farmers for purchase of machinery/equipment for in-situ crop residue management. Also, A National Policy for Management of Crop Residue 2014 has been prepared and circulated to all states to devise schemes and programmes for providing incentives and infrastructural assistance to farmers to stop them from burning of crop residue to prevent air pollution.

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