

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1500**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

**Air pollution in Delhi due to stubble burning**

1500. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that in addition to other factors, regional factors like crop stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is the main reason for air pollution in Delhi;
- (b) if so, details of concerted steps taken towards tackling this problem and sensitising the concerned States bordering Delhi; and
- (c) the number of high-level meetings convened by the Central Government in this regard during the last year?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) Stubble burning in Northern States contributes to air pollution in Delhi and NCR in winter season as per the report of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Ministry of Earth Sciences. System of Air Quality & Weather Forecasting & Research (SAFAR) has analysed the contribution of stubble burning in the total PM<sub>2.5</sub> for the kharif season of this year. The estimated share of stubble burning in PM<sub>2.5</sub> reached to a high of 36% on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 and 33% on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.
- (b) To counter environmental pollution arising out of crop residue burning especially during adverse meteorological conditions in early winter in North India, the Central Government has introduced 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 and 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs. 1151.80 crore to provide farmers subsidized machinery required for in-situ management of crop residue. This year's allocation of central funds is Rs. 591.65 crore. Under this scheme, there is financial assistance on purchase of eight straw management implements required for in-situ management of crop residue (50% of the cost of the implement for individual farmers; and 80% of the cost of implements for Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) by Co-operative Societies of farmers, groups or SHGs, FPOs and Private Entrepreneurs).

(c) Meetings with Environment Ministers and concerned officers from neighbouring States were held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 27.09.18 and 01.11.18. Principal Secretary to PM as well as Secretary, MoEF&CC have held regular meetings with the concerned officers of the neighbouring States to address this issue of burning of crops. Directions under section 5 of E (P) Act, 1986 and under section 18(1)(b) of the Air Act, 1981 have been also issued to State Governments of Delhi-NCR and Punjab on the issue of burning of crops.

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