

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 145
ANSWERED ON 29/07/2022

ALTERNATIVE FOR STUBBLE BURNING

*145. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any action against the farmers who burn the stubble, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps for providing farmers with an alternate way of disposing crop stubble, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to educate the farmers about different techniques of cropping and harmful effects of stubble burning, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 145 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29/07/2022.**

(a) to (c): The mandate of taking actions against the farmers burning stubbles such as imposing environmental compensation as per the directions of National Green Tribunal rests with the State Governments.

To support the efforts of the Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to address air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, a 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' is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare from 2018-19. Under this scheme, financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of machinery is provided to the farmers for purchase of identified crop residue management machinery and financial assistance @ 80% of the project cost is provided to the Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs), Registered Farmers Societies and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of identified crop residue management machinery. During the period from 2018-19 to 2021-22, funds amounting to Rs. 2440.07 crores have been released for these States. More than 2.07 lakh crop residue management machines have been supplied to the CHCs and individual farmers of these four States.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed Pusa Decomposer, a microbial consortium of fungal species (both in liquid and capsule forms) for rapid decomposition of paddy straw. Use of this consortium accelerates process of paddy straw decomposition in the field itself and in the year 2021, the decomposer has been used by the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi in an around 3,91,485 hectares

The State Governments and Institutions under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have conducted Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to educate farmer about the ill effects of crop residue burning and the crop residue management practices to be followed by them, which included print and electronic media advertisements, awareness programmes/ kisan melas, hoardings, posters and banners, wall paintings at prominent locations, leaflets, pamphlets and publicity materials distribution, columns /articles, television programmes and panel discussions, training of farmers & demonstration of technologies at farmers' fields, mobilization of school students etc. Out of the total funds released during 2018-19 to 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 181.82 crores were released towardsthes IEC activities.
