

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 496
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

MEASURES TO CURB STUBBLE BURNING

496. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether Government is taking measures to curb incidence of stubble burning particularly in the States of Punjab and Haryana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to subsidise the machinery required for better management of crop residue so as to minimise stubble burning;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of other such measures proposed to be taken by Government to curb stubble burning?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Residue Management Scheme from 2018-19 to support efforts of the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, Under this scheme, financial assistance @ 50% is provided to the farmers for purchase of crop residue management machinery and @ 80% is provided to Rural Entrepreneurs (Rural youth & Farmer as an entrepreneur), Cooperative Societies of farmers, Registered Farmers Societies, Farmers Producer Organization (FPOs) and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines. The scheme promotes the usage of machines and equipments for management of crop residues such as Super Straw Management System, Happy Seeder, Super Seeder, Smart Seeder, Surface Seeder, Zero Till Seed cum Fertilizer Drill etc. for in-situ management of crop residue and Balers & Straw Rakes for collection of straw for further ex-situ utilization.

With a view to enable efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in these States, provisions have been made to establish projects for paddy straw supply chain with financial assistance @ 65% on the capital cost of machinery costing up to Rs. 1.50 crores. The

intervention aims at establishing a robust supply chain of paddy straw for various end user industries in biomass power generation and biofuel sectors.

Under this scheme, during the period from 2018-19 to 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 3623.45 Crore have been released to these States and ICAR. The States have established more than 40,000 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines and more than 3.00 lakh crop residue management machines have been supplied to these CHCs and individual farmers of these States.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted to regularly monitor the effective and time bound implementation of schemes of various Ministries/Departments that supports ex-situ management of paddy straw in a convergent and synergistic manner.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed Pusa Bio-decomposer, a microbial consortium of fungal species that accelerates process of paddy straw decomposition in the field. The use of bio-decomposer is being promoted through large-scale demonstrations of this technology on the farmer's fields.

The paddy straw burning events between 15th September to 25th November during the last year in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were 42470, which have been reduced to 17193 events during the current year for the same period, which indicates 59.5 percent reduction in paddy straw burning over the last year.
