

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1287**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

**Air Pollution due to Crop Residue Burning**

1287. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI :

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

- (a) whether the Government has evolved any alternative solution to crop burning residue which is a very large contributor to air pollution in early winter in North India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide large subsidy on the Happy Seeder, a machine developed by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Australia and Punjab Agricultural University which allows planting of wheat through the residue;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government to counter environmental pollution arising out of crop residue burning?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Burning of crop residue in various states can lead to higher level of pollution specially during adverse meteorological conditions in early winter in North India. Government has taken various actions to address the issue of air pollution from crop residue burning which include banning of stubble burning, mass awareness programmes, constitution of a Task Force to suggest remedial measures for crop residue burning, including both in-situ options such as use of innovative farm implements like Happy Seeder, Straw Management system, Bio-char, Prali-char, etc., and ex-situ options like biomass based power plants, co-firing with coal in thermal plants etc.

(c) & (d) There are existing schemes of Government of India that support farm mechanization and larger support is subject to adequate allocations.

(e) A High Level Task Force has been constituted by the government for management of air pollution in Delhi and NCR including the air pollution from crop residue burning. On the basis of direction of the Task Force, Sub-Committee of High Level Task Force for Prevention of Stubble Burning in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab has been constituted for finalizing the action plan to counter environmental pollution arising out of crop residue burning.

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