

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 13
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH DECEMBER, 2018

STUBBLE BURNING

13. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of any sustainable uses of stubble such as use of it for mixing in soil;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted awareness or sensitisation drives for farmers in regions where stubble burning is an issue to help educate farmers and mitigate the issue; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes any kind of public-private partnership with private entities that wish to collaborate with farmers to provide sustainable solutions for the stubble burning issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): Soil quality is closely related to soil organic matter; high soil organic matter means high potential productivity and better health of soil; soil organic matter improves and stabilizes the soil structure so that the soil can absorb higher amounts of water, this leading to significant reductions in surface run-off and soil erosion. Soil organic matter also improves the water absorption capacity of the soil during extended droughts. Intensive cropping and tillage system have led to substantial decrease in soil organic matter level of Indian soils. Soil organic matter may be maintained by the addition of crop residues.

(b): 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 has been introduced w.e.f. 2018-19 by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare.

Accordingly, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers has provided financial assistance to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh State Governments and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to implement the Information, Education and Communication of awareness (IEC) activities for In-situ Management of Crop Residue.

Under Information, Education and Communication of awareness (IEC) activities Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh State Governments and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have conducted demonstrations, training, farmers awareness camps, distribution of pamphlets, display of hoardings and banners, radio talks, discussion on T.V. and advertisement in print and electronic media.

(c): Presently, there is no proposal with Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare for public-private partnership with private entities.
