

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.600
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JUNE, 2019

AGRICULTURAL WASTE

600. DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

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

- (a) the amount of agricultural wastes produced in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether it is true that the farmers tend to burn the agricultural waste (e.g. straw) causing high levels of pollution, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to address the issue of increasing air pollution levels due to agricultural wastes; and
- (d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Pollution Control Boards to monitor the local emission sources and control the emission, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has estimated that about 500 million tons of agricultural and agro-industrial residues are being generated annually in the country and about seventy percent of these residues are used as fodder, as fuel for domestic and industrial sectors and for other economic purposes.

(b): Paddy Stubble burning is mainly practiced in Indo-gangetic plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to clear the fields for Rabi Crop sowing. However, as per satellite data, overall about 15% and 41% reduction in number of burning events were observed in the year 2018 as compared to that in 2017 and 2016, respectively in these three States.

(c): In 2018, 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 launched with the total outgo from the Central funds of Rs. 1151.80 crore.

During 2018-19, funds amounting to Rs. 269.38 crores, Rs.137.84 crores and Rs. 148.60 crores have been released to the Government of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh respectively for distribution of in-situ crop residue management machinery to the farmers on subsidy, establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of in-situ crop residue management machinery and undertaking Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for creating awareness among farmers.

During 2019-20, the funds amounting to Rs. 248.00 crores, Rs.175.00 crores and Rs. 97.54 crores have also been released so far to the Government of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

(d): The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change has issued comprehensive set of directions under section 18 (1) (b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1986 for implementation of 42/31 measures to mitigate air pollution in major cities including Delhi and NCR cities which comprises of control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions, bio-mass/municipal solid waste burning, industrial pollution, construction and demolition activities, and other general steps. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also launched a National Clean Air Program (NCAP) as a pan India time bound national level strategy to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in comprehensive manner.
