

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2091
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH DECEMBER 2022

STUBBLE MANAGEMENT MACHINES

2091. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of raging farm fires in Punjab;
- (b) if so, whether the cases of farm fires have increased due to mismanagement of handling stubble management machines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the delivery of stubble management machines to farmers is dismally low this year; and
- (e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government regarding mismanagement of stubble machines in the State of Punjab?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): 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.

(b) and (c): As per the satellite data collected by the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space (CREAMS) Laboratory, Division of Agricultural Physics, ICAR – Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, the active fire events due to paddy residue burning during 2022 season in the State of Punjab were 49922 numbers which are less by about 30 percent as compared to 71304 number of events reported during last year.

(d) and (e): 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, funds are provided to the State Governments for extending financial assistance to farmers and Custom Hiring Centres for purchase of crop residue management machines. During the period from 2018-19 to 2021-22, the funds amounting to Rs. 1147.62 Crores have been released to the State of Punjab. During the current year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 278.83 Crores have been released to the State of Punjab and an unspent amount of Rs. 212.45 Crores out of the previous releases has also been revalidated for utilization during 2022-23. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare reviews implementation of the scheme on regular basis at various levels. This included meeting taken by Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on 21.09.2022 and Inter-ministerial meeting of Hon'ble Ministers of Ministry Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying with the State Chief Secretaries convened on 19.10.2022.

Identification of beneficiary, delivery of machines and disbursement of financial assistance to the identified beneficiaries, monitoring of the utilization of machines for paddy straw management etc. is done at the State level. As per the information provided by the State of Punjab, the delivery of machines during 2022-23 has been effected through an online process ensuring transparency in the system and during the current season 21024 different crop residue management machines have already been made available to the farmers in the State.
