

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3438**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023

**BAN ON USE OF HARVESTERS**

3438. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:  
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the farmers are getting benefits from the modern agricultural machinery but due to the use of harvesters, there is a shortage of fodder for the livestock in the country by about 40 per cent, thereby it causes environmental pollution due to stubble burning;
- (b) whether it is also true that the harvester leaves about 40 per cent of the bottom part of the crop in the field as well, due to which there is a shortage of fodder in the whole country; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of harvesters and is also considering other alternatives under these circumstances?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री  
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): The modern agricultural machines such as combine harvesters reduce the drudgery of the human beings and draught animals, ensure timeliness of harvesting operations, enhance the precision & efficiency of harvesting and reduce losses. The combine harvesters have a higher cutting height when compared with other harvesting methods. However, the machines such as straw reapers, forage harvesters, slashers, balers and rakes are already being used by the farmers for taking out the residues left behind by the combine harvesters. There is no proposal for banning the use of combine harvesters.

Paddy stubble burning is mainly practiced in Indo-Gangetic plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh due to short window between the harvesting of paddy crop and sowing of next Rabi crop. The Government is already extending financial support to these States to address air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for residue management.

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