

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 269
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th August 2023

CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

***269. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:
DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:**

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

- (a) whether the Government provides incentives to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for supporting farmers with regard to Crop Residue Management (CRM) machines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the KVKs have taken measures to provide alternate crop residue management solutions to farmers in Northern India during the winter season to discourage stubble burning;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether KVKs have carried out assessment surveys for location-specific technology or knowledge modules in regions facing the issue of stubble burning; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 269 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th August 2023 REGARDING
“CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT”

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. 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’ has been implemented from 2018-19. Under this scheme, during the last five years, funds amounting to Rs. 3138.17 Crores have been released to the States and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) out of which the vital share of Rs. 1426.45 Crores has been released to the State of Punjab. The State of Punjab has utilized Rs. 1225.47 Crores and have an unspent balance of Rs. 201.00 Crores.

The Government provided Rs. 67.97 crore including 1163 machines to Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to support farmers by creating awareness amongst farmers with suitable alternatives of crop residue management (CRM) under “Information, Education and Communication (IEC)” component of the Central Sector Scheme on ‘Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for *In-Situ* Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi’ since 2018-19. The IEC component is implemented by 60 KVKs including 22 KVKs of Punjab, 14 KVKs of Haryana, 1 KVK of Delhi and 23 KVKs of Uttar Pradesh.

The activities under IEC component include organization of awareness programmes, demonstrations and hands-on training to farmers on different CRM Machineries namely, Happy Seeder, Super Seeder and Smart Seeder for direct seeding of wheat without burning the rice residue; Reversible Mould Board Plough for incorporating the paddy stubble in the field for production of vegetable/ potato; and other farm machinery like Zero Till Drill, Shrub Master/ Cutter-cum-Spreader, Mulcher/ Chopper, etc. for *in-situ* residue management.

KVKs organized 3898 awareness camps involving about 2.99 lakh farmers, 1342 training programmes for 46,568 farmers, 1.22 lakh demonstrations and 349 Kisan Melas involving 7.9 lakh farmers. Further, KVKs also mobilized more than 2.0 lakh school and college students against residue burning. Besides, social media (WhatsApp, Facebook and YouTube), print media and mKisan portal have also been extensively used for providing technical advisory services to the farmers for crop residue management.

(c) to (f): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed Pusa Decomposer, a microbial consortium of fungal species (both in liquid and capsule forms) for rapid decomposition of paddy straw. Use of this consortium accelerates process of paddy straw decomposition in the field in about 20-25 days. The KVKs have conducted 8803 demonstrations on farmers’ field and awareness programmes to promote Pusa Decomposer for management of crop residue.

KVKs made a survey to assess different technologies for crop residue management to find out their location specificity to tackle the issue of stubble burning. Assessments indicate that higher yield of wheat was obtained as a result of sowing of wheat with Happy Seeder and Super Seeder in the standing stubble and helped in *in-situ* management of paddy residue. Awareness, Demonstrations and capacity building programmes are carried out based on the findings of assessments. The efforts made through above Central Sector Scheme resulted into about 56% reduction in incidences of residue burning in the year 2022 compared to that of 2016.
