GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 601 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

Pollution caused by Stubble Burning

601. SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government to prevent air pollution caused by burning of stubble in various States;
- (b) the details of the facilities provided by the Government to the State Governments for management of stubble; and
- (c) whether the Government is assisting the State Governments to set up paddy straw pellet units in various areas including in thermal plants?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c)

To support the efforts of the Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to prevent air pollution caused due to stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, a central sector scheme on crop residue management has been implemented since 2018-19. Under this scheme, financial assistance @ 50% is provided to the farmers for purchase of crop residue management machinery and @ 80% is provided to Coop. Societies, FPOs and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHC). Financial assistance to the States and ICAR is also provided for undertaking information, education and communication activities for mass awareness of farmers on crop residue management.

During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, Rs. 3138.17 crores have been released (Punjab – Rs.1426.45 crores, Haryana – Rs. 916.71 crores, Uttar Pradesh – Rs. 713.67 crores, NCT of Delhi – Rs. 6.05 Crores and ICAR– Rs. 75.29 crores). The states have distributed more than 2.40 lakh machines to the individual farmers and to more than 37000 CHCs in these 4 States, which also include more than 4500 Balers & Rakes which are used for collection of straw in the form of bales for further ex-situ utilization.

In 2022, the Scheme has been merged with Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and SMAM has been merged with Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. The state-wise and year wise funds and the number of crop residue management machines supplied to individual farmers and Custom Hiring Centersare given at **Annexure 1.**

The Government has framed guidelines for providing one-time financial assistance for establishment of paddy straw based pelletisation and torrefaction plants. Under these guidelines, individual entities /entrepreneurs / companies, interested in setting up pelletisation and torrefaction plants, using only paddy straw generated in the NCT of Delhi, States of Punjab, Haryana, NCR districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh can obtain a one-time grant on capital investment. An initial corpus of Rs. 50 crores have been earmarked for utilisation through the guidelines. A total of 5.27 crore have been sanctioned for setting up of 06 paddy based straw pelletisation and torrefaction plants with total capacity of 23.75 TPH. The pellet produced from these plants could be utilized by industries including thermal power plants.

State-wise and year-wise funds released

Year	Funds Released (Rs. in Crores)							
	Punjab	Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	NCT of Delhi	ICAR & Others	Total		
2018-19	269.38	137.84	148.60	0.00	28.51	584.33		
2019-20	273.80	192.06	105.28	4.52	18.48	594.14		
2020-21	272.50	170.00	120.20	0.00	8.00	570.70		
2021-22	331.94	193.35	159.59	0.00	6.02	690.90		
Total	1147.62	693.25	533.67	4.52	61.01	2440.07		

Number of crop residue management machines supplied to individual farmers and Custom Hiring Centers

S.	Parameters	Punjab	Haryana	Uttar	NCT of	Total	
No.				Pradesh	Delhi		
1	Number of machines supplied	30695	27661	34072	247	92675	
	to individual farmers						
2	Number of machines supplied	54691	31446	21639	0	107776	
	to Custom Hiring Centres						
3	Number of Custom Hiring	25403	6775	7213	0	39391	
	Centres Established						
4	Grand total of machines	85386	59107	55711	247	200451	
	supplied to individual farmers						
	and Custom Hiring Centres						

State/	Number of Machines delivered to the					No. of Custom Hiring Centres				
Agency	individual farmers and Custom Hiring Centres				Established					
	2018-	2019-	2020-	2021-	Total	2018	2019	2020-	2021	Total
	19	20	21	22		-19	-20	21	-22	
Punjab	2774	2306	2454	1003	85386	3888	5140	1210	4275	2540
	7	8	0	1				0		3
Haryan	1062	1407	1535	1905	59107	1194	1685	1345	2551	6775
a	7	8	0	2						
Uttar	2330	7054	1365	1170	55711	2300	1650	1652	1611	7213
Pradesh	6		1	0						
NCT of	0	111	51	85	247	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi										
Total	6168	4431	5359	4086	20045	7382	8473	1510	8437	3939
	0	1	2	8	1			6		1