

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 1940
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

Management of stubble burning

1940 SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

- (a) the details of initiatives taken under the National Clean Air Programme during the last two years for the effective management of stubble burning;
- (b) the amount spent by the Government on the Graded Response Action Plan during the last two years;
- (c) whether the Government has identified hotspots in the neighbouring States of NCR for stubble burning pollution; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a):

Government of India launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), to tackle air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive and focussed manner to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} levels by 2024 from 2017 levels.

The Government has taken several actions to curb air pollution even before launch of NCAP which also includes the initiatives regarding the effective management of stubble burning.

- To manage the problem of stubble burning, Central Government in 2018 launched a Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi'. Under the said scheme, 50% subsidy is provided in case of procurement on farm Machinery and Equipment by individual farmers. Further, 80% subsidy provided on the project cost to co-operative societies of farmers, farmers producers organization, registered farmers societies and gram panchayats for establishment of farm machinery banks for Custom Hiring of crop residue management machinery. For implementation of the scheme, funds amounting to a total of Rs. 1726.67 crores have been released during 2018-21.
- Alternate avenues for the usage of paddy straw/crop residue such as use of biomass for production of PraliChar, biochar, pellets, briquettes, bioCNG, bio-ethanol etc are also being attempted.
- Coordination with ISRO for a regular availability of remote sensing monitoring data for crop burning by the farmers.

(b):

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was notified by the Ministry vide dated January 12, 2017. Actions as stated under GRAP to curb air pollution related issues in Delhi-NCR are being implemented through concerned state agencies.

A Task Force consisting of members from State Pollution Control Boards/Committee- Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, IMD, a Health Expert, and Central Pollution Control Board was constituted for initiating action. Task Force had conducted 68 meetings, and initiated appropriate actions.

(c)&(d):

Active Fire Events (AFE) are monitored regularly to identify hotspots of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana.

In 2020, Sangrur, Bhatinda, Firozpur, Moga and Muktsar were identified to be top 05 districts out of 22 districts of Punjab in terms of AFE counts. The total AFE counts of these districts correspond to more than 45% of total AFE counts of all the districts.

Fatehabad, Kaithal, Karnal, Jind and Sirsawere identified to be top 05 districts out of 22 districts of Haryana affected in terms of AFE counts. The total AFE counts of these districts correspond to more than 65% of total AFE counts of all the districts.

The directions regarding enforcement of ban on stubble burning were issued to all the concerned State Government in 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019. Further, States were asked to saturate the hotspots/villages and districts with high burning events with machineries on priority.
