

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1161**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2024

**CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT MACHINES**

1161. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL

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

- (a) whether the Government's attention is drawn to the reports regarding Baler machine shortages forcing farmers to burn crop residue across the State of Punjab;
- (b) whether the Government has provided funds for providing Baler machines to the State for tackling this situation;
- (c) if so, the details of the funds allocated and utilized;
- (d) whether adequate Baler machines have been purchased or whether the current situation warrants certain irregularities; and
- (e) if so, a detailed report of the irregularities, if any?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): 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. To support the efforts of the these States, to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, a Crop Residue Management Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare from the year 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 Rural Entrepreneurs (Rural youth & Farmer as an entrepreneur), Cooperative Societies of farmers, Registered Farmers Societies, Farmers Producer Organization (FPOs) and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines. The scheme promotes the usage of machines and equipments for management of crop residues such as Super Straw Management Systems, Happy Seeder, Super Seeder, Smart Seeder, Surface Seeder Zero Till Seed cum Fertilizer Drill, Mulcher, Shrub Master/Rotary

Slasher, Paddy Straw Chopper, Hydraulically Reversible Mould Board Plough, Crop Reapers and Reaper Binders for in-situ management of crop residue and Balers & Straw Rakes for collection of straw for further ex-situ utilization. Financial assistance @ 65% on the capital cost of machinery costing up to a maximum of Rs. 1.50 Crore per project is also provided for paddy straw supply chain which covers the machinery and equipments like higher HP Tractors, Cutters, Tedder, Medium to large Balers, Rakers, Loaders, Grabbers & Telehandlers. During the period from 2018-19 to 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 1681.45 Crores have been released to the State of Punjab. The State has distributed more than 1.35 lakh machines to the individual farmers and to more than 25417 CHCs in the State, which also include 1554 Balers which are used for collection of straw in the form of bales for further ex-situ utilization. Looking into inclination of farmers towards in-situ management of paddy straw, the State of Punjab has targeted to provide 1000 additional baler machines during the current year 2024-25. As per the information received from the State of Punjab, the situation does not warrant any irregularities and the State is optimistic that as more manufacturers enter the market, the supply of balers will eventually catch up with the rising demand.

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