

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4233
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH AUGUST, 2025

ALTERNATIVES TO STUBBLE BURNING

4233. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the current extent and regional patterns of stubble burning in the country, especially in the northern States;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to promote alternatives to stubble burning, such as crop diversification and in-situ residue management;
- (c) whether there has been any evaluation of the effectiveness of subsidies provided for machinery and equipment under various schemes; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to work in collaboration with State Governments and farmers' organisations to reduce the incidence of stubble burning through incentives, awareness campaigns, or stricter enforcement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): 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 active fire events due to paddy residue burning are monitored using satellite remote sensing by the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS) Laboratory, Division of Agricultural Physics, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. As per their report, the burning events detected between 15 September to 30 November for the period from 2018 to 2024 is indicated in below table:

State	Incidences of Paddy Stubble Burning in the States (Numbers)						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Punjab	59664	50735	83002	71304	49922	36650	10909
Haryana	9227	6364	4202	6987	3661	2296	1406
Uttar Pradesh	6623	4230	4631	4242	3017	3985	6142
Total	75514	61329	91835	82533	56600	42931	18457

The overall reduction in paddy stubble burning in year 2024 when compared with 2018 was 75.6 percent.

(b): To support the efforts of the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Residue Management (CRM) Scheme in these states from 2018-19. Under this scheme, financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of machine is provided to the farmers for purchase of crop residue management machines and @ 80% of the project for projects up to Rs. 30 lakhs is provided for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines. With a view to enable efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in these states, financial assistance @ 65% on the capital cost of machinery costing up to Rs. 1.50 crores is provided for establishing a robust supply chain of paddy straw for various end user industries in biomass power generation and biofuel sectors. Bio-Decomposer (microbial consortium of fungal species) is promoted, which accelerates the in-situ decomposition of paddy straw. Crop Diversification Programme is also implemented in these States to primarily divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, cotton. Assistance is provided to farmers through implementing state governments for alternate crop demonstrations viz. Rs. 9000/ha for pulses, Rs. 7500/ha for maize and barley, Rs. 11500/ha for maize hybrid and Rs. 7500/ha for nutri-cereals.

(c): Under the CRM scheme, during the period from 2018-19 to 2025-26 (as on 31 July 2025), an amount of Rs. 3926.16 Crore have been released to the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi and ICAR. The States have established more than 42,000 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines and more than 3.24 lakh crop residue management machines have been supplied to these CHCs and individual farmers of these States.

(d): The Government is actively working with state governments and various other stakeholders including farmers to reduce stubble burning by implementing a multi-pronged approach, which include financial assistance under CRM scheme for purchase of various machines and equipments for in-situ and ex-situ management of crop residue and conducting awareness campaigns. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has issued direction No. 90 dated 09.05.2025 to the respective states for strict implementation of the framework and action plan for prevention and control of paddy stubble burning during the year 2025, targeting to eliminate the practice through strict enforcement. The Action Plan includes measures like in-situ crop residue management, ex-situ utilization of paddy straw, crop diversification, strict monitoring and enforcement, and extensive awareness campaigns, all aimed at reducing the practice of burning agricultural residue after harvest.
