

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1552
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Stubble Burning incidents in Punjab

1552. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a) the current number of stubble-burning incidents reported from the State of Punjab from September to November 2025;
- (b) the major initiatives taken by the State and Centre to prevent stubble burning and curb air pollution in North India;
- (c) whether the Government has introduced new incentives or penalties for farmers in this context;
- (d) the budgetary allocation and actual disbursement for in-situ crop residue management in 2025; and
- (e) the results achieved in reducing air pollution and health hazards vis-a-vis previous years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): As reported by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), paddy straw burning incidents reported in State of Punjab during September to November 2025 was 5114.

Government has taken various measures to eliminate the paddy stubble burning. A comprehensive framework for prevention and management of paddy straw was developed by Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), followed by year-wise, State-specific action plans for Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Based on the framework, State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and UP prepared state specific action plans to address paddy stubble burning.

The Action Plan includes in-situ crop residue management, ex-situ utilization of paddy straw, strict monitoring and enforcement, and extensive awareness campaigns, all aimed at reducing the practice of burning agricultural residue after harvest. It also mandates the use of paddy straw-based biomass pellets/briquettes in Coal based Thermal Power Plants and all brick kilns in Delhi NCR.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) provides one-time financial support for establishment of pelletisation and Torrefaction plants to promote utilization of paddy straw. An amount of Rs.15.58 crore has been released for 25 plants with capacity of 104.5 Tons per Hour (TPH) and these plants are expected to utilize 4.83 lakh tonnes paddy straw annually.

To support the efforts of the Government 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, a Central Sector Scheme on Crop Residue Management has been implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare (MoAFW) since 2018-19. States have distributed more than 3.50 lakh machines to the individual farmers and established more than 43,415 Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) in these States which includes 1.48 lakh Crop Residue Machines (CRM) and 1500 CHC in Punjab for in-situ crop residue management. So far, Rs.4,173.84 crore has been released during the period 2018-19 till 2025-26 (as on 04.02.2026), of which, an amount of Rs. 2026.45 crore has been released to State of Punjab.

Government of Haryana provides incentive of Rs.7000/- per acre to farmers under Crop Diversification Programme 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' with the aim of reducing the area of paddy in the State and promoting maize, cotton, Kharif Oilseed, Kharif Pulses, Kharif onion, Fodder crops, Horticulture/vegetable crops, even in case of fallow land. Government of Haryana also provides an incentives of Rs.1200 per acre to farmers for not engaging in stubble burning. Further, Rs.4000/- per acre is provided to farmers for using Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) method.

Government of Punjab offers a financial incentive of Rs. 1500 per acre to farmers who adopt the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique. An area of 2.93 lakh acres has been sown using DSR method. Government has offered incentives of SGST reimbursement on the cost of the boiler (based on paddy straw) installed in industries such as Sugar Mills, Paper Mills and boilers of steam generation capacity more than 25 Tons per Hour (TPH) under the PBIP Investment promotion policy of the State of Punjab. Further incentives under agriculture infra fund for industrial units utilising paddy straw are also offered.

22 paddy supply chain centres have been established to strengthen supply chain of paddy residue. Unnat Kissan App 2.0 has been launched to facilitate mapping of CRM machines, real-time booking by farmers, and daily reporting of machine utilization by officers and single platform for machine rental.

10,500 field functionaries have been appointed to monitor and contain stubble burning incidents and Parali Protection Force of 1700 personnel has been deployed at Block level in Punjab for effective enforcement of measures to prevent and control stubble burning. 31 Flying Squads from CPCB have been deployed during the paddy harvesting season in identified hotspots of Punjab and Haryana to closely monitor actions and coordinate with the concerned District level authorities.

Govt. of Punjab has banned the PUSA 44 seed variety due to high water demand and late harvesting. ICAR has developed many varieties of paddy maturing 125 days producing same yield and consuming less water as replacement to PUSA 44. Further, ICAR has developed many new varieties of Paddy such as PUSA 2090, PUSA 1824, PR114, PR122, PR126, PR128, PR131 as a better option compared to PUSA 44 variety. On-farm demonstrations and awareness programmes have been conducted by IARI for popularization of short duration varieties with equal or better yield potential than PUSA44 for its replacement.

Environmental compensation has been imposed in 2386 incidents as per Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (Imposition, Collection and Utilization of Environmental Compensation for Stubble Burning) Rules, 2023.

Due to coordinated efforts, paddy stubble burning incidents have been reduced in Punjab by more than 90% with 5,114 in 2025 as against 71,304 in 2021, in Punjab. Further, Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi has improved at 201 in 2025 as against 225 in 2018.
