

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1908
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST AUGUST 2023

STUBBLE BURNING

1908. SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:

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

- (a) the various steps taken by the Government to check the pollution caused due to stubble burning;
- (b) whether any scheme has been launched by the Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the incidents of stubble burning reported during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union and State Government of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): Paddy stubble burning is mainly practiced in Indo-gangetic plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to clear the fields for Rabi Crop sowing. To support the efforts of the Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to address air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, a Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' has been implemented from 2018-19. The scheme promotes the usage of machines such as Super Straw Management Systems, Happy Seeder, Super Seeder, Smart 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 paddy straw and Balers & Straw Rakes for ex-situ management of paddy straw. Financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of machinery is provided to the farmers for purchase of these identified machinery and financial assistance @ 80% of the project cost is provided to the Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs) and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring

Centres (CHCs) of these identified machines. The details of State-wise funds released during last five years is as under:

Year	Funds Released (Rs. in Crores)					Total
	Punjab	Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	NCT of Delhi	ICAR & Others	
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
2022-23	278.83	223.46	180.00	1.53	14.28	698.10
Total	1426.45	916.71	713.67	6.05	75.29	3138.17

The States have established more than 39000 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) and more than 2.42 lakh crop residue management machines have been supplied to these CHCs and individual farmers of these States. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed Pusa bio-decomposer, a microbial consortium of fungal species (both in liquid and capsule forms) for rapid decomposition of paddy straw. Use of this consortium accelerates process of paddy straw decomposition in the field itself and in the year 2022, the decomposer has been used by the States in an around 7.45 lakh hectare area.

The scheme guidelines have been revised with a view to enable efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in these States. Provisions have been made to establish techno-commercial pilot projects for paddy straw supply chain under the bilateral agreement of beneficiary/ aggregator (Farmers, Rural entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies of farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats) and Industries utilizing the paddy straw. Financial assistance @ 65% on the capital cost of machinery costing up to Rs. 1.50 crores is provided by the Government. Industry as primary promoter of the project has to contribute 25% of the project cost and the balance 10% will be the contribution of beneficiary/aggregator. The intervention aims at establishing a robust supply chain of paddy straw for various end user industries in biomass power generation and biofuel sectors.

The satellite-based monitoring indicated that a total 56600 paddy residue burning events were detected in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in 2022 season which are 28.1% less than those reported in 2021. The State-wise incidents of paddy stubble burning reported during each of the last three years are given as under:

State	Number of paddy stubble burning events		
	2020	2021	2022
Punjab	83002	71304	49922
Haryana	4202	6987	3661
Uttar Pradesh	4631	4242	3017
Total	94620	78748	56600
