

Punjab and Haryana has not been fully implemented and there has been significant level of stubble burning. The incidents of stubble burning increase during the post harvesting period as farmers prepare their fields for next sowing season. While NASA's findings are subject to analysis by relevant scientific institutions, there is no conclusive study available that burning of paddy straw crop residue in the States like Punjab and Haryana would always impact quality of air in the States/UT like Rajasthan, Delhi etc. As per the Report of IIT, Kanpur, the back trajectory analyses suggest that the Crop Residue Burning and other biomass emissions may be transported to Delhi from the sources upwind of Delhi.

(c) The annual averages in respect of key pollutants for the year 2016 and years immediately preceding does not show very significant difference.

(d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued comprehensive directions including control of stubble burning under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 29.12.2015 to NCR States / NCT of Delhi. Further, directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding agricultural stubble burning in NCR States and Punjab have been issued to NCR States and Punjab. Notifications under Section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 have been issued by Government of Punjab, Govt, of Haryana and Government of Rajasthan prohibiting or restricting the open burning of straw.

Field trial of GM crops

525. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of GM crops (plants and traits) allowed to conduct confined field trials during 2014-15;

(b) the names of GM crops released for commercial cultivation during 2002-03; and

(c) by when Government would release and commercialize GM varieties which have been tested to be biosafe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) The names of GM crops, plants and traits allowed to conduct confined field trials during 2014-15 are as follows:

Sl. No.	GM Crop	Trait
1.	Rice	Insect resistance
2.	Cotton	Insect resistance and herbicide tolerance
3.	Corn	Insect resistance
4.	Chickpea	Insect resistance

(b) Bt cotton was released for commercial cultivation during 2002-2003.

(c) All genetically engineered products are assessed through various statutory bodies for food and environmental safety in accordance with Rules for the manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/ genetically engineered organisms or cells 1989 (Rules 1989) made under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. At present, only GE Mustard application submitted by Centre for Genetic Manipulation and Crop Plants (CGMCP), University of Delhi South Campus has completed all biosafety studies for necessary examination by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).

Green Law violators

526. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Green Law violators have increased to recent years, as per the data of National Crime Records Bureau;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number and the details of persons who are arrested during that period under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dumping of wastes by pharmaceutical companies in rivers

†527. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that river pollution has reached to an alarming level at various places in the country due to waste being flown by pharmaceutical companies in the rivers and the local people have become victims of several diseases;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.