

- (c) their names and reasons for pendency; and
- (d) by when these are proposed to be expedited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (d) There are only two proposals (from Governments of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh) related to renewal of lease in forest areas, pending with Ministry.

There is one proposal related to educational institutions, namely Kamla Nehru Technical Institute in Sultanpur in the state of Uttar Pradesh, which has not been considered for decision in Government of India, as a matter related to renewal of its lease is *sub-judice*.

Pollution in Delhi and other metropolitan cities

861. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that air pollution in Delhi is life threatening;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action after identifying that stubble burning is one of the source of pollution; and
- (d) whether Government has any cogent plan to tackle the pollution in Delhi and other metropolitan cities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/ disease exclusively due to air pollution though air pollution has an impact on respiratory ailments.

(c) Stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is considered as one of the contributors to the poor air quality in Delhi and NCR during the months of October and November along with local sources of emissions like industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, road and soil dust, construction and demolition activities and adverse meteorological conditions. In order to prevent stubble burning, a new Central Sector 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' for

the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20 is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare with the total release from the Central funds of ₹ 1178.47 crore.

Under this Scheme, the agricultural machines and equipments for *in-situ* crop residue management such as Super Straw Management System (SMS) for Combine Harvesters, Happy-Seeders, Hydraulically Reversible MB Plough, Paddy Straw Chopper, Mulcher, Rotary Slasher, Zero Till Seed Drill and Rotavators are provided with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs). The State Governments during 2018-19 have supplied more than 56290 machines to the individual farmers and Custom Hiring Centres on subsidy for *in-situ* management of crop residue. During 2019-20, it has been targeted to supply more than 46578 machines.

Further, extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for creating awareness among farmers have been undertaken.

With the efforts of the Government, overall, about 15% and 41% reduction in burning events were observed in 2018 as compared to that in 2017 and 2016, respectively. During 2019-20 season, the total burning events recorded in the three States are 19.2% less than in 2018 till 18th November. UP has recorded 36.8% reduction, Haryana recorded 25.1% reduction, and Punjab recorded 16.8% reduction, respectively, in the current season than in 2018.

(d) The Government is taking all efforts for the mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country. A Comprehensive Air Plan (CAP) for Delhi NCR has been developed identifying the timelines and implementing agencies for actions delineated. The Central Government has notified a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR for different levels of pollution. The nature, scope and rigor of measures to be taken are linked to levels of pollution *viz.* severe + or emergency, severe, very poor, moderate to poor and moderate, after due consideration by authorities concerned. Also, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as base year. The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 States and Union Territories, on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.

Several initiatives taken by the Government are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 835 (Part (c) to (e))]

Setting up plastic waste management units

862. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to set up thousands of block level plastic waste management units in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of blocks which will have such units. State-wise; and
- (d) the time by which these units will come into effect in the chosen blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (d) The Ministry has notified Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules 2016, which *inter alia*, prescribe to set up Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) by local bodies for sorting of recyclable dry waste such paper, metal, plastic, glass, textiles etc. These units facilitate storage, sorting/segregation of various streams of dry waste for value recovery.

Further, the Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 for environmentally sound management of plastic waste and to prevent plastic pollution in the country. Every urban local bodies have been made responsible for setting up of necessary infrastructure for collection, segregation and processing, including recycling and disposal of plastic waste. The generators of waste under the PWM Rules 2016 have been mandated to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter, ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover the segregated waste to the local bodies or agencies authorised by them or registered waste pickers or registered recyclers.

On the call of Hon'ble Prime Minister, a three-phase campaign "Swachhta Hi Sewa" (SHS) was launched from 11th Sep, 2019, which ended on Diwali i.e. 27th October 2019, which *inter-alia*, focused on awareness, advocacy, collection and safe disposal of littered plastic.