

in process of standardizing the techniques for aquaponics. ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar has taken up aquaponics project entitled 'Development of a low cost aquaponics system using plastics for urban aquaculture' under ICAR-All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Plasticulture Engineering and Technology.

Stubble burning menace

1286. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

DR. SANTANU SEN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noticed that stubble burning is the major cause of air pollution in NCT of Delhi and is an incorrect practice followed by farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to tackle this issue; and
- (d) whether Government has taken up steps for creating awareness among the farming communities about adverse effect of stubble burning?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Among other various local sources of pollution in NCT of Delhi, smoke from the burning of paddy crop residue in Indo-Gangetic plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh also contribute to environmental pollution in NCT of Delhi during the early winter season. The farmers are resorting to paddy straw burning because of very short time window between the harvesting of paddy crop and the sowing of next crop.

(c) and (d) To address air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for *in-situ* management of crop residue, a 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 with the total outgo from the Central funds of ₹ 1151.80 crores.

During the year 2018-19 and 2019-20, the funds as under have been released under the aforementioned scheme:—

State/Agency	Funds Released (₹ in Crores)	
	2018-19	2019-20
Punjab	269.38	273.80
Haryana	137.84	192.06
Uttar Pradesh	148.60	105.28
NCT of Delhi	0	4.52
ICAR and other	28.51	18.48
Central Agencies		
TOTAL	584.33	594.14

Out of these funds, 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, more than 32808 machines have been supplied so far. The State Governments and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have also undertaken Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities on a massive scale for creating awareness among farmers.

Suicide by farmers

1287. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the latest National Crime Records Bureau's data, 11,379 farmers have committed suicide during 2016, an averaging around 31 farmers suicides daily;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor:

(c) the details of suicides by farmers during 2017, 2018 and 2019 till date, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the remedial measures adopted by Government to check farmers' suicide; and

(e) the reasons for failure of steps taken by Government to check massive suicide by farmers?