

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2105
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/08/2024

STUBBLE BURNING IN NORTH INDIAN STATES

2105. Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to tackle the issue of stubble burning in North Indian States;
- (b) the details of incentives provided to farmers of these States to refrain from stubble burning;
- (c) the details of assistive technologies being provided to farmers to refrain from stubble burning; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to promote compost and fertilisers production by farmers from stubble?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Paddy stubble burning is mainly practiced in Indo-Gangetic plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh due to short window between the harvesting of paddy crop and sowing of next Rabi crop. To support the efforts of these States, to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Crop Residue Management Scheme from 2018-19. Under this scheme, financial assistance @ 50% is provided to the farmers for purchase of crop residue management machinery and @ 80% is provided to Rural Entrepreneurs (Rural youth & Farmer as an entrepreneur), Cooperative Societies of farmers, Registered Farmers Societies, Farmers Producer Organization (FPOs) and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines. The scheme promotes the usage of machines and equipments for management of crop residues such as Super Straw Management System, Happy Seeder, Super Seeder, Smart Seeder, Surface 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 crop residue and Balers & Straw Rakes for collection of straw for further ex-situ utilization. With a view to enable efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in these States, provisions have been made to establish projects for paddy straw supply chain with financial assistance @ 65% on the capital cost of machinery costing up to Rs. 1.50 crores. The intervention aims at establishing a robust supply chain of paddy straw for various end user industries in biomass power generation and biofuel sectors. Under this scheme, during the period from 2018-19 to

2023-24, an amount of Rs.3333.17 Crore have been released to these States and ICAR. The States have established more than 37,000 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines and more than 2.95 lakh crop residue management machines have been supplied to these CHCs and individual farmers of these States. During the current financial year, so far an amount of Rs. 150 Crores and Rs. 50 Crores have been released to the States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

(d): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) 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. The use of bio-decomposer is being promoted through large scale demonstrations of this technology on the farmers fields.
