

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. -2905
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

MEASURES TO REDUCE STUBBLE BURNING

2905. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

- (a) the number of cases of stubble burning recorded since 2020, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to reduce stubble burning;
- (c) the effectiveness of the measures taken by Government to reduce stubble burning, particularly satellite imagery and detection; and
- (d) whether Government has provided alternative indigenous and feasible methods to farmers to opt for instead of stubble burning?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): As per the reports released by the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space (CREAMS) Laboratory, Division of Agricultural Physics, ICAR – Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, the paddy straw burning events between 15th September to 30th November during the last five years in the States of Punjab, Haryana Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi are indicated in below table:

State/Year	Incidences of Paddy Stubble Burning in the States (Numbers)				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Punjab	83002	71304	49922	36663	10909
Haryana	4202	6987	3661	2303	1406
Uttar Pradesh	4631	4242	3017	3996	6142
NCT of Delhi	9	4	10	5	13
Total	91844	82537	56610	42967	18470

(b) to (d): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Residue Management Scheme from 2018-19 to support efforts of the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, 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 etc. 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 2024-25 (as on 30 November 2024), an amount of Rs. 3623.45 Crore have been released to these States and ICAR. The States have established more than 40,000 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of crop residue management machines and more than 3.00 lakh crop residue management machines have been supplied to these CHCs and individual farmers of these States.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed Pusa Bio-decomposer, a microbial consortium of fungal species that 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 farmer's fields.

As per the reports released by the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space (CREAMS) Laboratory, Division of Agricultural Physics, ICAR – Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, the paddy straw burning events between 15th September to 30th November during the last year in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were 42967, which have been reduced to 18470 events during the current year for the same period, which indicates 57 percent reduction in paddy straw burning over the last year.
