

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1622
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Waste generated from Paddy Plants

1622. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:
SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry has any proposal for the establishment of Pelletisation and Torrefaction Plants to treat waste generated from paddy plants to use it as biomass fuel to reduce and control the air pollution created by burning of these raw-waste generated from paddy crops in Punjab and Haryana States and if so, the details of the scheme thereof;
- (b) whether this Scheme is applicable for the other parts of the country also where the paddy crops are grown and if so, the details of the projects registered/applied under this Scheme so far;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the concerns raised by beneficiaries of the Paddy Pellet Scheme that the financial incentives under the same do not cover production costs;
- (d) whether the Government had held consultations with manufacturers and other stakeholders before the introduction of the Scheme and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government intends to expand the scheme to other crops beyond paddy; and
- (f) the data of instances of stubble burning per year since 2014, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (f)

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued guidelines for grant of one-time financial support under Environment Protection Charge (EPC) Funds for establishment of pelletisation and torrefaction plants to promote utilisation of paddy straw in Delhi/NCR.

Guidelines were prepared for paddy straw based pellet plants considering the issue of paddy straw burning that takes place in northern India, which is one of the factors adversely impacting air quality in Delhi and NCR.

As per the guidelines, a maximum amount of Rs. 14 lakhs per ton plant production capacity per hour, towards capital cost of plant and machinery as one-time financial support by CPCB, subject to a total financial support of Rs. 70 lakhs per proposal in case of pelletisation plant. In case of torrefaction plant, a maximum amount of Rs. 28 lakhs per ton plant production capacity per hour, shall be paid as one-time financial support by CPCB, subject to a total financial support of Rs. 1.4 crore per proposal.

Another scheme has been launched by MNRE for the whole country and other crop residues. Assistance is given upto Rs. 9 Lakhs for one TPH (Ton per hour) capacity of non-torrefied palletisation, limited to Rs. 45 lakhs per unit.

The cost proposed in draft guidelines was based on discussions and information obtained from market players which were further shared with concerned central ministries and other stakeholders for comments especially on the aspect of funding.

Total of 314661, 30446, 23, 4374 and 22756 cases of stubble burning were reported for the period 1st October till 30th November, from 2018 till 2022 in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh respectively.
