

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2446

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

BURNING OF CROP WASTE

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reported that fields after harvesting, are set on fire in several States causing air pollution on a massive scale;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted on the other harmful effects of this practice;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to frame any law to ban the burning of fields;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e). Burning of post harvest residual stalks is practiced by some farmers in certain areas for preparing the fields for sowing their next crop, where rice – wheat cropping pattern is followed. The Central Pollution Control Board has carried out a pilot study in Punjab to assess the magnitude of air pollution due to this practice.

The Central Government through Ministry of Agriculture has issued an advisory in December, 2009 to all State Governments and UT Administrations to advise and educate farmers to curb the practice of burning crop remnants. Government of Haryana has issued a notification in year 2003 to prohibit the burning of crop remnants. The Government of Punjab constituted a 'Task Force' in year 2006 in the matter to prevent indiscriminate burning of crop remnants.

The Central Government is extending financial assistance to farmers under the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, to encourage the use of Happy Seeder, an agricultural implement used for combined operation of tillage and sowing for sowing the wheat crop without burning the crop remnants after harvesting the paddy.