

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4438  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015  
BURNING OF BIOMASS  
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that burning of biomass by farmers in Punjab and Haryana is affecting the pollution levels in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the change in pollution levels before, during and after the biomass burning;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware of the NASA data which states that biomass burnings are still continuing in the States of Punjab and Haryana, contrary to the claims of the State Governments and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (d). Agricultural residues are being burnt in Punjab and Haryana by farmers which are affecting the prescribed permissible limits for pollutants. Punjab Pollution Control Board is monitoring the ambient air quality in rural areas of the State. Images released by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on 30th October 2014 from its moderate resolution imaging spectro-radiometer (MODIS)'s aqua-satellite suggest a thick blanket of aerosols lying over northern Indian States including Delhi.

The steps taken by Government of Punjab to check pollution from biomass burning include the following:

- i. Government of Punjab has issued notification for prohibiting the burning of paddy straw in Punjab.
- ii. Bio-mass based projects of capacity 147 MW power plants are under execution.
- iii. Punjab Pollution Control Board continuously organizing awareness campaign during paddy harvesting season.
- iv. Punjab Pollution Control Board is regularly monitoring the ambient air quality in rural areas by setting up four monitoring stations.
- v. Subsidies on the agriculture equipment are being provided.
- vi. Punjab State Council for Science & Technology has initiated R&D project with the support of Punjab Pollution Control Board to study the use of paddy straw as fuel in brick kilns on a pilot scale.
- vii. Haryana State Pollution Control Board has also taken stringent control measures for containing the bio-mass burning.