

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3627

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Agricultural Wastes

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the amount of agricultural wastes produced in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the farmers tend to burn this agriculture waste (e.g. straw) causing high level of pollution and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to address the issue of air pollution due to agricultural wastes; and
- (d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Pollution Control Boards to monitor the local emission sources and limit them and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

???? ???????? ??? ?????? ??????? (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture do not maintain year-wise data of agricultural wastes produced in the country. However, as per available estimates of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE, 2009), about 501.7 million tonnes of crop residues are generated annually both 'on and off-farm' in the country. Crop residues are primarily used for livestock feed, soil mulching, bio-gas generation bio-manure/compost, thatching for rural homes, mushroom cultivation, biomass energy production, domestic and industrial fuel etc. However, crop residues are also burnt on-farm to clean the field for sowing of next crop, which results in air pollution.

(c) & (d): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated National Policy for Management of Crop Residue (NPMCR), 2014, for control of burning of crop residue to prevent environmental degradation. NPMCR has been circulated to all the States including Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF &CC) for implementation. Accordingly, MoEF &CC has advised all the States to issue an advisory in multimedia mode at State as well as local level to farmers for prevention of burning of crop residues and biomass in fields and also to facilitate diversified use of crop residues as fuel for power plants, production of cellulosic ethanol, paper/board and packing material etc.

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