

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:896

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017

Burning of Farm Residues

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

- (a) whether a recent study of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali shows that burning of post harvest farm residues in certain parts of the country contribute to increased concentrations of crop-damaging surface ozone;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has directed States to check the practice of burning farm residues in the field and if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to develop cheaper and effective technology for scientific disposal of the farm residues and popularize it amongst the farmers; and
- (e) the other corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री अहलुवालिया (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) to (e): As per information received from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, the institute has conducted a study from August 2011 to September 2013 shows that burning of post harvest farm residues in the North West Indo-Gangetic Plain contributes to increased concentrations of surface ozone. The scientists of institute have also published their paper in Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres in 2016.

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Government of India has circulated a "National Policy for Management of Crop Residues (NPMCR)" in 2014 to all states/UTs of the country. Besides, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has also issued advisory in multimedia mode for curbing stubble burning in northern states of India.

The states like Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are promoting the farm machinery and implements such as baler, rice straw chopper, rotavator, happy seeder, zero till seed drill etc for the management of crop residues. Punjab Pollution Control Board and Haryana Pollution Control Board have issued advisories to farmers through electronic media and print media not to burn the residue stalks as it results in the loss of nutrients required for the fertility of the soil. Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan also issued notifications under Section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for prohibiting or restricting the open burning of straw.
