

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 955
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2019

Burning of Crop Residue

955. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA;
SHRI JAI PRAKASH;
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL;
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY;
SHRI CHIRAG KUMAR PASWAN;
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR;
SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY;
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO;
PROF. SAUGATA RAY;
SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU;
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE;
SHRI HARISH DWIVEDI;
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU;
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH;
ALIAS LALAN SINGH;
SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE;
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE;
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI;
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE;
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE;
SHRI MAHABALI SINGH;
SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:

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

- (a) whether the practice of burning of paddy stubble/crop residue in various States continue unabated leading to high air pollution level in cities and metros, if so, the details and the reasons therefore indicating the levels of Air Quality Index in Delhi and National Capital Region during the last one month;
- (b) whether the Government has directed all States to formulate a comprehensive policy for providing incentives, new technologies and infrastructural assistance to farmers to stop them from burning of crop residue, if so, the details and the response of the State Governments thereto;
- (c) whether any major initiatives were undertaken in the past two years in consultation with the neighbouring States of Delhi to check the pollution arising from paddy stubble burning and if so, the details thereof;

- (d) whether the Government has convened meeting of various States to work out a clear mechanism on transportation and use of stubble as fuel in power plants and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether States have made any concrete development plan to identify the site in each district for removal, collection and storage of crop residue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to seek funds from Green Climate Fund through NABARD to tackle the problem of stubble burning and if so, the details and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent/ban burning of paddy stubble/crop residue and control air pollution?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

(a),(b), (c), and (f) Stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is considered as one of the contributors to the poor air quality in Delhi and NCR during early winter months. As per System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, the estimated impact of stubble burning in PM_{2.5} levels of Delhi ranged between 2% (07.11.2019) to 46% (31.10.2019). The levels of Air Quality Index in Delhi and major National Capital Region cities for October 2019 are attached as **Annexure A**.

In order to prevent stubble burning, a new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' for the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20 is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare with the total outgo from the Central funds of Rs. 1151.80 crore (Rs. 591.65 crore in 2018-19 and Rs. 560.15 crore in 2019-20).

Under this Scheme, the agricultural machines and equipments for in-situ crop residue management such as Super Straw Management System (SMS) for Combine Harvesters, Happy Seeders, Hydraulically Reversible MB Plough, Paddy Straw Chopper, Mulcher, Rotary Slasher, Zero Till Seed Drill and Rotavators are provided with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs). The State Governments during 2018-19 have supplied more than 56290 machines to the individual farmers and Custom Hiring Centres on subsidy for in-situ management of crop residue. During 2019-20, it has been targeted to supply more than 46578 machines.

In compliance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 06.11.2019, the Government of Punjab has brought out a scheme for providing compensation @ Rs. 100/- per quintal to small and marginal farmers who are cultivating non-basmati paddy and are managing the paddy residue by in-situ method without burning. The Government of Haryana also brought out the scheme to provide Rs. 1000/- per acre operational charges for crop residue management for in-situ and ex-situ purposes. The Government of Haryana will also give Rs. 100 per quintal

incentive to those farmers who have sold their paddy after 06.11.2019 and till 15.11.2019 and have not burnt the crop residue.

The National Green Tribunal in the order passed on 10.12.2015, directed and prohibited agricultural residue burning in any part of the NCT of Delhi, State of Rajasthan, State of Punjab, State of Uttar Pradesh and State of Haryana. Any person or body that is found violating the directions of National Green Tribunal is liable to pay Environmental Compensation which is collected by the concerned State Governments.

Further, extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for creating awareness among farmers have been undertaken by the States. States are also taking strong measures against those who have burnt stubble by way of lodging FIRs and charging penalties.

With the efforts of the Government, overall, about 15% and 41% reduction in burning events were observed in 2018 as compared to that in 2017 and 2016, respectively. During 2019-20 season, the total burning events recorded in the three States are 19.2% less than in 2018 till 18th November. UP has recorded 36.8% reduction, Haryana recorded 25.1% reduction, and Punjab recorded 16.8% reduction, respectively, in the current season than in 2018.

(d) & (e) As per meeting held with Ministry of Power, State Governments of Punjab and Haryana to take effective steps to ensure that all coal-based thermal power plants, including those in private sector, use minimum of 5% of biomass pellets and up to 10% to be co-fired with coal.

Annexure-A

Comparative Air Quality Index Status of DELHI and major NCR Towns for October 2019

Date	Delhi	Faridabad	Gurugram	Ghaziabad	Noida
01-Oct-19	93	46	NA	85	82
02-Oct-19	90	NA	65	82	118
03-Oct-19	136	NA	76	184	177
04-Oct-19	100	NA	83	108	116
05-Oct-19	98	117	72	109	102
06-Oct-19	127	101	81	135	136
07-Oct-19	130	NA	98	162	144
08-Oct-19	112	102	78	119	114
09-Oct-19	173	150	122	186	175
10-Oct-19	211	NA	171	225	193
11-Oct-19	216	250	190	264	262
12-Oct-19	222	248	175	263	252
13-Oct-19	270	253	198	320	310
14-Oct-19	252	263	205	277	273
15-Oct-19	270	293	240	308	297
16-Oct-19	304	300	287	339	326
17-Oct-19	284	245	279	298	283
18-Oct-19	248	214	258	270	243
19-Oct-19	161	256	219	169	167
20-Oct-19	238	243	185	269	250
21-Oct-19	249	213	201	284	260
22-Oct-19	207	161	174	236	210
23-Oct-19	242	258	195	285	246
24-Oct-19	311	NA	294	335	319
25-Oct-19	284	260	280	303	284
26-Oct-19	287	259	239	303	280
27-Oct-19	337	323	299	395	358
28-Oct-19	368	358	372	396	397
29-Oct-19	400	387	368	446	439
30-Oct-19	419	404	365	478	450
31-Oct-19	410	402	341	482	452

NA- AQI not available on that day

Category	
Good	(0–50)
Satisfactory	(51–100)
Moderate	(101–200)
Poor	(201–300)
Very Poor	(301–400)
Severe	(>401)

