

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 987
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Rise in Forest Fire Incidents

987 ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH :

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that forest fire incidents are increasing at alarming rate in many States;
- (b) if so, the number of forest fire cases and the loss of forest and wildlife reported during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether special teams under National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for handling forest fire incidents has been formed as decided by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the role and functions of the special teams; and
- (e) whether the Government has done any consultation with State Governments to prevent forest fire, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) & (b) Seasonal forest fires occur every year due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulations of inflammable materials such as dry leaves, twigs, pine needles, etc. Most of the forest fires in the country are ground fires in which ground vegetation, etc. are burnt. The number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year depending on the vulnerability of the forests to various forest fire risk factors.

In the forest fire season (November 2023 to June 2024), the total number of forest fires detected by the Forest Survey of India is 2,03,544 while in the previous forest fire season (November 2022 to June 2023) number of forest fires detected by the Forest Survey of India was 2,12,249, which is more than the incidents reported in forest fire season (November 2023 to June 2024).

The State-wise number of forest fire detections by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), using satellite-mounted sensor in the last four forest fire seasons (November 2020 to June 2024) are given in **Annexure**. No estimation of loss of forest and wildlife due to forest fire in the country has been made by the Ministry.

- (c) & (d) The Ministry in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), has trained three battalions of the NDRF, comprising 150 personnel to tackle large forest fires. These battalions are stationed at Guwahati, Vijaywada, Dehradun and deployed as per the requirements to control forest fires. They supplement the efforts of the State Forest Departments in tackling the large forest fires.
- (e) The Ministry has prepared and circulated a National Action Plan on Forest Fires in consultation with the State Governments. The Action Plan has strategies for the prevention and management of forest fires. In line with the National Action Plan, several State Governments have prepared State Action Plans to address the risk and incidences of forest fires.

For timely detection and monitoring of forest fires, the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has put in place a satellite-based 'Forest Fire Monitoring and Alert system'. The forest fire alerts are disseminated through SMS and e-mail to the registered users in States and UTs.

The Ministry assists the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in the prevention and control of forest fires by providing financial assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Forest Fire Prevention and Management.

In addition, a 24x7 Disaster Management Control Room has been set up in the Ministry to monitor forest fire incidences in the country and to collaborate with the concerned disaster management agencies such as National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), State Control Rooms and the Control Room in Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary coordination in controlling forest fires.

The Ministry has issued advisories to the States/UTs to generate awareness among the forest fringe communities to protect the forests from fire from time to time.

Before the start of the forest fire season and during the forest fire season every year, meetings between the Central Government and the States/UTs are held regularly to monitor and review the forest fire situation. In the last forest fire season such meetings at various levels, viz., National Crisis Management Committee, Secretary (Environment, Forests and Climate Change), Director General of Forests and Special Secretary (DGF&SS) and Inspector General of Forests (Forest Protection Division), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, etc., were held at different times of the forest fire season.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 987 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.07.2024 REGARDING RISE IN FOREST FIRE INCIDENTS ASKED BY ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH

State-wise number of forest fire detections by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), using satellite-mounted sensor in the last four fire seasons (November 2020 to June 2024).

Sr. No	State/UT	SNPP-VIIRS Detections			
		Nov 2020 to Jun 2021	Nov 2021 to Jun 2022	Nov 2022 to Jun 2023	Nov 2023 to Jun 2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	19,328	14,138	19,367	18,174
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3,914	3,449	2,447	2,053
3	Assam	10,718	8,158	9,830	7,639
4	Bihar	5,179	3,024	3,793	2,763
5	Chhattisgarh	38,106	25,792	20,306	18,950
6	Delhi	14	3	7	16
7	Goa	45	20	147	36
8	Gujarat	3,803	2,769	2,342	3,182
9	Haryana	152	135	82	166
10	Himachal Pradesh	4,110	5,280	704	10,136
11	Jharkhand	21,713	9,419	11,923	7,525
12	Karnataka	5,784	4,973	13,074	5,500
13	Kerala	296	504	1,550	1,110
14	Madhya Pradesh	47,795	32,728	17,142	15,878
15	Maharashtra	34,025	22,052	16,119	16,008
16	Manipur	10,457	5,544	10,127	4,498
17	Meghalaya	7,658	6,322	6,604	4,319
18	Mizoram	12,846	8,734	5,798	6,627
19	Nagaland	4,975	3,471	3,882	2,609
20	Odisha	51,968	22,014	33,461	20,973
21	Punjab	635	428	119	605
22	Rajasthan	3,402	2,703	2,059	4,352
23	Sikkim	63	26	49	101
24	Tamil Nadu	1,220	1,035	1,998	3,380
25	Telangana	18,237	13,737	13,117	13,479
26	Tripura	5,015	2,609	4,332	2,089
27	Uttar Pradesh	8,608	5,428	3,235	4,424
28	Uttarakhand	21,487	12,985	5,351	21,033
29	West Bengal	3,287	1,520	3,096	2,020
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16	33	20	21
31	Chandigarh	0	0	1	1
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	34	18	16	16
33	Jammu & Kashmir	1,098	4,255	131	3,829
34	Ladakh*		27	20	32
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	1	0	0	0
Total		3,45,989	2,23,333	2,12,249	2,03,544

* The number of forest fire detections in Ladakh are combined with the number of forest fire detections in Jammu & Kashmir for the fire season between November 2020 - June 2021.