

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3900
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018

Damages due to forest fires in Theni, Tamil Nadu

3900. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of major and minor forest fires, that broke out in the country during the last three years and in the current year, up to 15.03.2018;
- (b) the number of persons killed or injured and damages which occurred due to the fires, especially in the recent hill forest fire in Theni district of Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the steps taken to minimize and prevent forest fires, especially in summer, along with guidelines issued to the States to deal with such forest fires?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The details of State/Union Territory wise number of forest fire alerts reported by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization of this Ministry, during the last three years and current year upto 15.03.2018 are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) As per the information received from Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the death toll in the recent forest fire occurred in Kurangani hills of Theni District, Tamil Nadu as on 26.03.2018 was 21 (twenty one). 4 (four) persons are still undergoing treatment in various hospitals. 1(one) person has been discharged and is recuperating at home. 10 (ten) persons were rescued.

Further, the extent of damage in Tamil Nadu due to forest fire from 2015 to 2018 (upto 15.03.2018) is as given below:

S. No.	Year	Damage occurred in hectare (extent damaged and Govt. Loss reported)	Remarks
1.	2015	1810.15	Forest fire affected the ground shrubs and dried leaves only. There is no loss of Government property reported
2.	2016	1527.43	
3.	2017	1770.36	
4.	2018 (upto 15.03.2018)	701.14*	

*The figure includes an area of around 40 hectares damaged during the recent forest fire at Kurangani hills of Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

- (c) Protection and management of forests from various threats including forest fire is primarily the responsibility of respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Ministry issues advisories to State/UT Governments for taking effective steps for prevention and management of forest fires. Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization of this Ministry disseminates satellite based forest fire alerts on location of forest fires to all States/UT Forest Departments & other registered users through SMS and email for taking effective steps for controlling the fire at the initial stage itself so as to minimize the damages and losses. Further, the Ministry supplements the efforts of State/Union Territory Governments in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM) Scheme.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3900 DUE FOR 02.04.2018 REGARDING DAMAGES DUE TO FOREST FIRES IN THENI, TAMIL NADU ASKED BY DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

S. No.	States/UTs	2015	2016	2017	2018 (Upto 15.03.2018)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	24	8	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,075	1,699	1877	1499
3	Arunachal Pradesh	358	293	733	141
4	Assam	1,656	1,766	1877	570
5	Bihar	45	321	272	15
6	Chandigarh	0	-	1	0
7	Chhattisgarh	1,272	2,808	4373	1265
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	0	2	5	0
11	Goa	0	10	32	5
12	Gujarat	117	262	574	258
13	Haryana	6	43	185	4
14	Himachal Pradesh	22	199	170	42
15	Jammu & Kashmir	13	217	113	26
16	Jharkhand	457	740	1133	190
17	Karnataka	295	831	1333	985
18	Kerala	91	165	456	112
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	294	2,675	4781	722
21	Maharashtra	721	1,874	3487	1420
22	Manipur	1,286	1,105	1094	1245
23	Meghalaya	1,373	966	1454	975
24	Mizoram	2,468	1,318	1587	1548
25	Nagaland	722	678	930	675
26	Odisha	1,467	2,763	4416	1852
27	Puducherry	0	0	9	2
28	Punjab	7	45	320	27
29	Rajasthan	90	66	260	115
30	Sikkim	3	0	8	1
31	Tamil Nadu	95	113	301	180
32	Telangana	1,052	1,154	1748	1634
33	Tripura	476	346	431	66
34	Uttar Pradesh	130	691	1170	300
35	Uttarakhand	207	1,501	376	186
36	West Bengal	138	142	364	65
	Grand Total	15,937	24,817	35,888	16, 125