

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.213
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022

Forest fire cases in Uttarahakand

213. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that forest resources are damaged on large scale due to wild fires in the country;
- (b) whether the number of wild fires are increasing; and
- (c) the steps that are being taken by Government to prevent or reduce the cases of wildfires in the State of Uttarakhand?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a),(b)& (c) Forest fire do occur every year during summer 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. get burnt. The number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year depending on various natural and anthropogenic reasons. The Number of forest fire alerts disseminated by FSI using SNPP-VIIRS sensors (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires) during last three years to various States/UT's in **Annexure-I**.

The responsibility of forest fire prevention and management lies primarily with the respective State/UT. The Ministry supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance for various forest fire prevention and management measures such as modern tools for fire extinguishing, use of communication and information technology, etc creation and maintenance of fire lines in forest areas, engagement of fire watchers, creation of water storage structures in forest areas, strengthening of forest infrastructure, procurement of firefighting equipment, soil and moisture conservation works in high risk areas, awareness creation, incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme. A sum of about Rs. 10.89 crore (Rupees Ten Crore and Eighty Nine lakh) has been released to the State Government of Uttarakhand during last three years and current year (2018-19 to 2021-22) under this scheme.

In addition, the FSI has taken following steps to improve the forest fire alert system:-

- (i) FSI has pursued with States/UTs to increase the number of registered users of its alert system. Now, the number of such registered users has increased to around 1.30 lakh.
- (ii) FSI also generates and disseminates “Weekly Early-Warning Alerts” of forest fire to concerned States/UTs.
- (iii) FSI has also initiated an innovative “Large Forest Fire Monitoring” programme in January 2019 which aims at improving tactical as well as strategic response to large forest fires by the respective States/UTs.

In addition to the above initiatives by FSI, the Government has constituted a national level committee that oversees the issues arising out of forest fire. The committee has advised all states to take several measures including constituting State-level Monitoring Committee on Forest Fire, preparing State Action Plan on Forest Fire, and Fire Risk Zonation mapping.

Annexure-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 213 DUE FOR REPLY ON 03.02.2022 REGARDING FOREST FIRE CASES IN UTTARAHAKAND.

Number of forest fire alerts disseminated by FSI using SNPP-VIIRS sensors (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires) during last three years to various States/UT's are:

Sensor	Nov 2018 to June 2019	Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021
SNPP-VIIRS	2,10,286	1,24,473	3,45,989
