

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3908
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

Implementation of Mission LiFe in Goa

3908. SHRI LUIZINHO JOAQUIM FALEIRO:

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

- (a) whether Prime Minister's Global Mass Movement Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFe) has been implemented in Goa;
- (b) if so, whether Government is aware of the devastating fires raging in Goa's wildlife sanctuaries for nearly 15 days, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding areas affected since some of these areas are world's eight hotspots of biodiversity and older than Himalayas;
- (d) the details of Goa's total forest area, area encroached by public and areas affected by fires; and
- (e) whether Government has set up NDRF to combat such fires and to avoid reoccurrence thereof in future?

ANSWER

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

(a) Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) has been included as one of the non-quantifiable targets under the Nationally Determined contributions by the Government of India for implementation across the country including Goa.

(b) & (c) During the first fortnight of March 2023, a total of 74 sporadic fire incidences were reported all across Goa in private land, Reserve forests, Comunidades land, and Protected areas of the state, of which 32 fire incidences were reported in three Wildlife sanctuaries in Goa. Though most of the forest fires were doused the same day, the fires reported in inaccessible, far flung hilly areas were controlled / doused by ground team with the aerial support of IAF. 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. Further, forest fire prevention and its management is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administration. The reason for recent

forest fire in the state has been largely due to conducive environment i.e., prolonged dry spell, unprecedented high temperature and low humidity had triggered sporadic forest fire across the state.

(d) & (e) As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2021, total Recorded Forest Area for the State of Goa is 1271 square kilometer which is 34.33% of geographical area of the State. Further, as per ISFR-2021, the total Forest Cover of the State of Goa is 2,244 square kilometer which is 60.62% of geographical area of the State. Due to the recent forest fire incidences in the state an area of about 4.18 sq km is reported to be affected including 2.27 Sq Km area affected in three Wildlife sanctuaries. Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT. The various actions to remove encroachment are taken as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, various rules made under these Acts and State Specific Acts and Rules. The forest area under encroachment in Goa is NIL. Two NDRF Battalions have been trained for combating forest fires.
