

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1634**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

**Steps to prevent forest fires**

1634. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that forest wealth gets damaged due to fire incidents during the summer season and the details of such incidents which occurred in 2021-22 and 2022-23;
- (b) the extent of forest wealth damaged in these fire incidents; and
- (c) the steps being taken to prevent and control these fire incidents?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Yes sir, the number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year depending on various natural and anthropogenic reasons. The State/UT- wise number of forest fire detected by Forest Survey of India (FSI) using SNPP-VIIRS (Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership - Visible and Infrared Imager/Radiometer Suite) sensor from 2021-22 to 2022-23 is given in **Annexure-I**.

(b) Forest Survey of India, has carried out burnt scar assessment for Kerala and Uttarakhand for the season 2021-2022 and for Manipur for the fire season 2022-2023 using Sentinel-2 satellite data having spatial resolution of 20 meters. Approx. 85.89 Sq Km was delineated as burnt scar in Kerala and 1781.39 Sq Km was delineated as burnt scar in Uttarakhand respectively during fire season 2021 to 2022. Majority of the Forest fire in Kerala were observed during the month of January to February 2022, whereas in Uttarakhand, the majority of forest fire were observed during March-April 2022.

(c) The Ministry also supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, Development of Wildlife Habitats, and under CAMPA. These schemes support various forest fire prevention and mitigation activities including, creation and maintenance of fire lines and water conservation structures inside forest areas, procurement of firefighting equipment, awareness creation, and incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. Further, the forest fire prevention and its management is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administration.

In addition, the Forest Survey of India 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 1.8 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.

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**Annexure referred to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 1634 due for reply on 03.08.2023 regarding 'Steps to prevent forest fires'.**

State/UT-wise number of forest fire detected by Forest Survey of India using SNPP-VIIRS sensors from 2021-22 to 2022-23. (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires)

S.No.	State/UT	SNPP-VIIRS Detections	
		Nov 2021 to June 2022	Nov 2022 to June 2023
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	33	20
2	Andhra Pradesh	14,138	19,367
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3,449	2,447
4	Assam	8,158	9,830
5	Bihar	3,024	3,793
6	Chandigarh	0	1
7	Chhattisgarh	25,792	20,306
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	15
9	Daman & Diu	3	1
10	Delhi	3	7
11	Goa	20	147
12	Gujarat	2,769	2,342
13	Haryana	135	82
14	Himachal Pradesh	5,280	704
15	Jammu & Kashmir including Ladakh	4,282	151
16	Jharkhand	9,419	11,923
17	Karnataka	4,973	13,074
18	Kerala	504	1,550
19	Lakshadweep	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	32,728	17,142
21	Maharashtra	22,052	16,119
22	Manipur	5,544	10,127
23	Meghalaya	6,322	6,604
24	Mizoram	8,734	5,798
25	Nagaland	3,471	3,882
26	Odisha	22,014	33,461
27	Puducherry	0	0
28	Punjab	428	119
29	Rajasthan	2,703	2,059
30	Sikkim	26	49
31	Tamil Nadu	1,035	1,998
32	Telangana	13,737	13,117
33	Tripura	2,609	4,332
34	Uttar Pradesh	5,428	3,235
35	Uttarakhand	12,985	5,351
36	West Bengal	1,520	3,096
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,23,333</b>	<b>2,12,249</b>