

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

Increase in forest fire cases

1650. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether rising heat levels has led to increase in forest fires cases in forest in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Ministry has chalked out any strategy for fighting increasing forest fires cases in the forests/National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) Forest fires do occur every year during summer due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulation 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.

(b) & (c) Forest fire prevention and its management is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administration. However, the Forest Survey of India (FSI), disseminates the satellite based forest fire alerts to the State Forest Departments and other registered mobile users whenever forest fires are detected.

The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of Wildlife Habitats" for conservation and management of protected areas, conservation of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery of critically endangered species and its habitats as per the APO received from States/UTs. It also includes activities for maintenance of fire lines and engagement of fire watchers during fire season.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, and CAMPA, this Ministry also 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.
