GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 371
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

Prevention of forest fires

371.   SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

(a)   whether it is a fact that numerous instances of forest fires have been reported in the current year and these have severely damaged the habitat and ecosystem;
(b)   if so, the details of the action taken by Government to contain such incidents;
(c)   the details of such incidents and the subsequent loss in the last five years, State-wise; and
(d)   the details of the preventive measures in place to stop such incidents?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d)   Forest fires 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. are burnt. The number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year depending on the vulnerability of the forests to various forest fire risk factors.

In the forest fire season (November 2023 to June 2024), the total number of forest fires detected by the Forest Survey of India is 2,03,544 while in the previous forest fire season (November 2022 to June 2023) number of forest fires detected by the Forest Survey of India was 2,12,249, which is more than the incidents reported in forest fire season (November 2023 to June 2024).

The Ministry has prepared and circulated a National Action Plan on Forest Fires with strategies for the prevention and management of forest fires. In line with the National Action Plan, several State Governments have prepared State Action Plans to address the risk and incidences of forest fires.

For timely detection and monitoring of forest fires, the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has put in place a satellite-based 'Forest Fire Monitoring and Alert system'. The forest fire alerts are disseminated through SMS and e-mail to the registered users.

The Ministry assists the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in the prevention and control of forest fires by providing financial assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Forest Fire Prevention and Management.

In addition, a 24x7 Disaster Management Control Room has been set up in the Ministry to monitor forest fire incidences in the country and to collaborate with the concerned disaster management agencies such as National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), State Control Rooms and the Control Room in Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary coordination in controlling forest fires.

The Ministry in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), has trained three battalions of the NDRF, comprising 150 personnel to tackle large forest fires. These battalions are deployed as per the requirements to control forest fires.

The Ministry has issued advisories to the States/UTs to generate awareness among the forest fringe communities to protect the forests from fire from time to time.

The State-wise number of forest fire detections by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), using satellite-mounted sensor in the last five forest fire seasons (November 2019 to June 2024) are given in **Annexure**.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED IN THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 371 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25.07.2024 REGARDING PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES ASKED BY SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA

State-wise number of forest fire detections by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), using satellite-mounted sensor in the last five fire seasons (November 2019 to June 2024).

Sr. No	State/UT	SNPP-VIIRS Detections				
		Nov 2019 to Jun 2020	Nov 2020 to Jun 2021	Nov 2021 to Jun 2022	Nov 2022 to Jun 2023	Nov 2023 to Jun 2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	9,996	19,328	14,138	19,367	18,174
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1,786	3,914	3,449	2,447	2,053
3	Assam	8,924	10,718	8,158	9,830	7,639
4	Bihar	614	5,179	3,024	3,793	2,763
5	Chhattisgarh	6,360	38,106	25,792	20,306	18,950
6	Delhi	21	14	3	7	16
7	Goa	47	45	20	147	36
8	Gujarat	2,770	3,803	2,769	2,342	3,182
9	Haryana	68	152	135	82	166
10	Himachal Pradesh	536	4,110	5,280	704	10,136
11	Jharkhand	2,613	21,713	9,419	11,923	7,525
12	Karnataka	4,232	5,784	4,973	13,074	5,500
13	Kerala	864	296	504	1,550	1,110
14	Madhya Pradesh	9,537	47,795	32,728	17,142	15,878
15	Maharashtra	14,018	34,025	22,052	16,119	16,008
16	Manipur	8,800	10,457	5,544	10,127	4,498
17	Meghalaya	6,762	7,658	6,322	6,604	4,319
18	Mizoram	7,361	12,846	8,734	5,798	6,627
19	Nagaland	2,905	4,975	3,471	3,882	2,609
20	Odisha	10,602	51,968	22,014	33,461	20,973
21	Punjab	153	635	428	119	605
22	Rajasthan	3,461	3,402	2,703	2,059	4,352
23	Sikkim	47	63	26	49	101
24	Tamil Nadu	1,368	1,220	1,035	1,998	3,380
25	Telangana	12,132	18,237	13,737	13,117	13,479
26	Tripura	4,369	5,015	2,609	4,332	2,089
27	Uttar Pradesh	1,548	8,608	5,428	3,235	4,424
28	Uttarakhand	759	21,487	12,985	5,351	21,033
29	West Bengal	1,320	3,287	1,520	3,096	2,020
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	39	16	33	20	21
31	Chandigarh	2	0	0	1	1
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	21	34	18	16	16
33	Jammu & Kashmir	438	1,098	4,255	131	3,829
34	Ladakh*			27	20	32
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	1	0	0	0
	Total	**1,24,473**	**3,45,989**	**2,23,333**	**2,12,249**	**2,03,544**

* The number of forest fire detections in Ladakh are combined with the number of forest fire detections in Jammu & Kashmir for the fire season between Nov.2019 - June 2020 to Nov.2020 - June 2021.