

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 373**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

**Forest fires in the Himalayas**

373. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) the causes of recurrence of forest fires in the sub-Himalayan and Himalayan forests in the recent past;
- (b) the estimated loss caused by forest fires in the Himalayan region in the last three years;
- (c) whether Central and State Government agencies have prepared foolproof strategies for preventing the recurrence of such fires;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the measures taken by the forest authorities to detect the areas affected by forest fires and the systems adopted for real-time monitoring of forests?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Forest fires 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.
- (b) No estimation of loss on real term basis has been made by the Ministry in the Himalayan region.
- (c) to (e) 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 their respective 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.

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.

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.

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