

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1163
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

Affect of forest fires on vegetation in Uttarakhand

1163. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

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

- (a) whether Government is cognizant that increasing forest fire in Uttarakhand has altered the growth period of Kafal (fruit);
- (b) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that this fruit reduces the carbon footprint;
- (c) whether Government is taking any initiatives to protect the State fruit from experiencing irregular growth due to hot temperature; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) Seasonal forest fires occur every year due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulation of inflammable materials such as dry leaves, twigs, pine needles, etc., on the forest floor. Most of the forest fires are ground fires in which ground vegetation, etc., are burnt. Number of incidences of forest fire varies from year to year depending on the vulnerability of the forests to various forest fire risk factors.

As per the report received from the State Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand, no assessment has been carried out regarding altering the growth period of Kafal (*Myrica esculenta*), fruit species due to forest fire incidences in Uttarakhand.

(b) Trees species sequester and store carbon. As per the report received from the State Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand, no specific study has been carried out regarding carbon footprint reduction by Kafal (*Myrica esculenta*), and it needs to be researched.

(c) & (d) The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), a central element of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), provides to undertake measures to enhance the climate resilience of agriculture, including cultivation of fruit bearing crops.

As per the report received from the State Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand, no targeted initiatives have been taken for Kafal (*Myrica esculenta*) species, as further research is needed in this area. However, the State Forest Department promotes plantation of Kafal (*Myrica esculenta*) under its mixed plantation schemes.
