

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1640
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Forest fires

1640. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) the number of forest fires in the country, year-wise and State-wise since 2020;
- (b) whether it is a fact that more than a quarter of the country's forest cover is prone to fire;
- (c) if so, the measures taken by the Ministry to prevent the spread of forest fires in vulnerable areas;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that 90 per cent of forest fires are caused by humans; and
- (e) if so, whether any preventative measures or legal remedies are available for the Ministry to prevent forest fires due to human action?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Forest fire incidences in the country are detected by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun using satellite-mounted sensors. As per the data received from the FSI, Dehradun, the year-wise and State/UT-wise total forest fire incidences detected since 2020 are given in **Annexure**.

(b) & (c) The details of forest resources are published by FSI in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per ISFR 2023, a total of 27.97% of the forest cover, including scrub, of the country falls under extremely to highly fire prone zone.

The Ministry has put in place a National Action Plan on Forest Fire-2018, which provides comprehensive measures to prevent forest fires and to improve the resilience of the forests against fire hazards. The State Governments/UT Administrations also prepare State Action Plans, in tandem with the National Action Plan to undertake State/UT-specific measures towards forest fire prevention and management.

To prevent forest fires, the Ministry through the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun provides Pre-Fire Alerts (one-week advance), Large Forest Fire Alerts and Near Real Time Forest Fire Alerts to the registered subscribers and State Forest department officials to combat forest fires.

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

The Ministry also supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in the prevention and control of forest fires by providing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme as well as through CAMPA funds.

(d) & (e) Most of the forest fires in the country are attributed to anthropogenic reasons, in addition to other natural causal factors. However, the risk of forest fire is accentuated by persistent hotter and drier weather and heat wave conditions.

The protection and management of forest and tree resources from forest fire is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest and tree resources from forest fire, which include the Indian Forest Act 1927, and the State Forest Acts and Rules. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forests and trees as per the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1640 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2025 REGARDING FOREST FIRES ASKED BY SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

State/UT-wise number of forest fires detected by Forest Survey of India using SNPP-VIIRS sensors since 2020 (this includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires).

Sr. No	State/UTs	SNPP-VIIRS Detections in the forest fire season			
		November 2020 to June 2021	November 2021 to June 2022	November 2022 to June 2023	November 2023 to June 2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	19,328	14,138	19,367	18,174
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3,914	3,449	2,447	2,053
3	Assam	10,718	8,158	9,830	7,639
4	Bihar	5,179	3,024	3,793	2,763
5	Chhattisgarh	38,106	25,792	20,306	18,950
6	Delhi	14	3	7	16
7	Goa	45	20	147	36
8	Gujarat	3,803	2,769	2,342	3,182
9	Haryana	152	135	82	166
10	Himachal Pradesh	4,110	5,280	704	10,136
11	Jharkhand	21,713	9,419	11,923	7,525
12	Karnataka	5,784	4,973	13,074	5,500
13	Kerala	296	504	1,550	1,110
14	Madhya Pradesh	47,795	32,728	17,142	15,878
15	Maharashtra	34,025	22,052	16,119	16,008
16	Manipur	10,457	5,544	10,127	4,498
17	Meghalaya	7,658	6,322	6,604	4,319
18	Mizoram	12,846	8,734	5,798	6,627
19	Nagaland	4,975	3,471	3,882	2,609
20	Odisha	51,968	22,014	33,461	20,973
21	Punjab	635	428	119	605
22	Rajasthan	3,402	2,703	2,059	4,352
23	Sikkim	63	26	49	101
24	Tamil Nadu	1,220	1,035	1,998	3,380
25	Telangana	18,237	13,737	13,117	13,479
26	Tripura	5,015	2,609	4,332	2,089
27	Uttar Pradesh	8,608	5,428	3,235	4,424
28	Uttarakhand	21,487	12,985	5,351	21,033
29	West Bengal	3,287	1,520	3,096	2,020
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16	33	20	21
31	Chandigarh	0	0	1	1
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	34	18	16	16
33	Jammu & Kashmir	1,098	4,282	131	3,829
34	Ladakh*	-	-	20	32
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	1	0	0	0
Total		3,45,989	2,23,333	2,12,249	2,03,544

*Forest Fire detections of Ladakh for the fire season 2020 to 2022 are included in the detections of Jammu & Kashmir.