

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2314
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Forest fires incidents

2314. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the several incidents of forest fires in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of forest fire incidents reported during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry has any action plan in place and implementation mechanism for the same to deal with incidents of forest fires in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) 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. 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.

The Forest fire incidences in the country are detected by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, using Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer (MODIS) & Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (SNPP-VIIRS) satellite-mounted sensors. As per the data received from the FSI, Dehradun, the total forest fire incidences detected using SNPP-VIIRS sensor during the last three forest fire seasons are as under:

November 2021 to June 2022	November 2022 to June 2023	November 2023 to June 2024
2,23,333	2,12,249	2,03,544

(c) to (d) 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 deal with 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 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.
