

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1365
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

Increasing forest fires and human-animal conflict in Odisha

1365. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) the measures being taken by Government to tackle the increasing forest fires and human-animal conflict in Odisha, number of forest fire incidents reported in Odisha in the last five years;
- (b) forest divisions most affected and action plans under implementation;
- (c) role of forest guards and use of drones or technology for monitoring; and
- (d) amount of Central assistance sought and sanctioned for forest protection?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Forest protection including fire prevention and its management is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administration.

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 number of forest fire incidences detected using SNPP-VIIRS sensor in Odisha during the last five forest fire seasons i.e. November to June are as under:

Forest Fire season	November 2020 to June 2021	November 2021 to June 2022	November 2022 to June 2023	November 2023 to June 2024	November 2024 to June 2025
Number of forest fire detected	51,968	22,014	33,461	20,973	27,120

As per the India State of Forest Report 2023, the districts of Rayagada, Kandhamal, Malkangiri and Koraput from Odisha were among the 20 districts in India where the highest number of forest fire incidents were detected by FSI using SNPP-VIIRS during November 2023 to June 2024.

The important steps taken by the Government to prevent forest fires include the following:

- i. The Ministry has put in place the 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/Union Territory Administrations also prepare State Action Plans in tandem with the National Action Plan to undertake State/ Union Territory-specific measures towards forest fire prevention and management.
- ii. The Ministry, through the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun provides Pre-Fire Alerts (one-week in 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.
- iii. The Ministry in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority and the National Disaster Response Force have trained three teams consisting of 150 personnel to tackle Large Forest Fires. These teams are deployed as per the requirements to control forest fires.
- iv. The Ministry provides financial assistance to the States and Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – Forest Fire Prevention and Management to deal with forest fires.

Further, the important steps taken by the Government for protection of wildlife and to address human-wildlife conflict are as follows: -

- i. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February 2021. The Ministry has also issued guidelines to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on 3rd June, 2022 on managing human-wildlife conflicts including damage to crops.
- ii. The Ministry has also issued species-specific guidelines to deal with human-wildlife conflict situations on 21.03.2023.
- iii. The Section 11 (1) (a) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, empowers the State/UT Chief Wild Life Wardens to grant permits for hunting wild animals listed in Schedule I of the Act, which become dangerous to human life. Further, The Section 11 (1) (b) of the Act empowers State/UT Chief Wild Life Warden or any authorized officer to grant permits for hunting of wild animals listed in Schedule-II of the Act, if such animals have become dangerous to human life or property.
- iv. A network of protected areas namely, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitat has been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

- (c) The forest guards are the frontline personnel responsible for the protection, conservation, and management of forests. They carry out regular patrolling in

the forest areas for monitoring and prevention of any illegal activities. The States/Union Territories (UT) also use modern technologies such as drones, camera traps etc. for monitoring purposes.

- (d) The Ministry provides financial assistance for the protection of forests and wildlife under Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, 'Forest Fire Prevention and Management', 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger and Elephant'. The Ministry sanctions the scheme-specific activities based on the Annual Plan of Operations submitted by States/ UTs for the respective financial years. The details of financial assistance sought by the State Government of Odisha and funds released during 2024-25 under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes is as follows:

Name of the Scheme	Amount sought (in lakh Rs.)	Amount released in lakh Rs.)
Forest Fire Prevention and Management	4421.63	190.86
Development of Wildlife Habitats	3733.26	1108.46
Project Tiger and Elephant	2775.08	919.57923
