

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2152
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

Forest fires

2152. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has a comprehensive update on the national strategy in place to combat forest fires, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons for the same;
- (b) the steps being taken to improve coordination between Central and State agencies in tackling forest fires;
- (c) the reasons for continued widespread devastation by forest fires and the specific challenges that hinder effective prevention and control efforts at the ground level; and
- (d) whether Government has assessed the financial, ecological and social costs of forest fires over the years, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) 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.

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 State Forest department officials and other registered subscribers to deal with forest fires.

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.

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.

- (c) and (d) Forest fires occur 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. get burnt. The number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year depending on various natural and anthropogenic reasons. The risk of forest fire is accentuated by persistent hotter and drier weather and heat wave conditions. For the first time, the FSI has carried out Burnt Area Assessment for forest fire season 2023-24 at National Level. As per the India State of Forest Report 2023, a total of 34,562.33 square kilometer forest area was affected by forest fire in the country during fire season in 2023-24.
