

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1336**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

**Forest fire incidents in Maharashtra**

1336. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the forest fire incidents in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur during the year 2025;
- (b) whether any financial assistance has been provided to the State Government for deploying technologies and protocols for rapid fire detection and safeguarding tribal settlements in these districts and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of any livelihood or compensation measures supported by the Central Government for communities dependent on minor forest produce in the affected areas; and
- (d) the steps being taken to strengthen local preparedness and mitigation measures in fire-prone forest divisions of Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Forest fires in India are a recurring challenge arising from both natural causes such as high temperatures, prolonged dry spells and lightning, as well as human-induced factors including shifting cultivation, deliberate burning for fodder and accidental ignition. These risks are further aggravated by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and increased accumulation of dry fuel load, particularly in hill regions and dry deciduous forests. Forest protection, including prevention and management of forest fires, primarily rests with the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

The Forest fire incidences in the country are detected by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun using SNPP-VIIRS sensors. As per the data received from the FSI, Dehradun, the total forest fire incidences detected in Gadchiroli were 7,932 and in Chandrapur were 1,895 during the forest fire season November 2024 to June 2025.

(b) The Ministry provides financial support to States/UTs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Forest Fire Prevention and Management (CSS-FFPM), under which funds are released for creation and maintenance of fire lines, engagement of fire watchers, construction of water storage structures, procurement of fire-fighting equipment, awareness activities and restoration of burnt areas. In the last five financial years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, Rs. 1425.44 Lakhs were released to the State of Maharashtra under CSS-FFPM.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is implementing the scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas

Mission' (PMJVM), under which financial assistance in the form of revolving funds is provided to State Governments including State of Maharashtra for procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFPs) at notified Minimum Support Price (MSP). Till date, State Government of Maharashtra have procured MFPs worth Rs. 312.5 lakhs from ST MFP (Scheduled Tribes Minor Forest Produce) gatherers under PMJVM scheme.

(d) The Ministry monitors forest fire incidents through the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, which issues satellite-based Pre-Forest Fire Alerts, Near Real-Time Forest Fire Alerts and Large Forest Fire Alerts to the State Forest Departments. The Ministry also supports the States in taking timely mitigation, control and post-fire management measures. Further, a real-time nationwide remote-sensing and alert system has been operationalised by FSI for all States, including Maharashtra. FSI also conducts biennial forest resource assessments under the ISFR series and has carried out a national-level burnt area assessment for the 2023–24 forest fire season.

To strengthen forest fire prevention and management, the Ministry has taken several measures including preparation of the National Action Plan on Forest Fire, facilitation of State/UT-level Action Plans, and provision of early-warning alerts through FSI. In coordination with NDMA and NDRF, the Ministry has trained three specialized teams comprising 150 personnel for managing large forest fire incidents. The Ministry supplements State efforts through technical support, early-warning systems, capacity-building initiatives and financial assistance.

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