

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2139
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

Prevention of forest fires

2139. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) the measures being taken by Government to manage and control fire in the forests across the country, especially in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether any plans have been chalked out by Government for community participation in fire prevention;
- (c) if so, whether Government is considering to provide designed equipments to frontline workers exposed to forest fires; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) 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 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 all State Forest Departments including Chhattisgarh. 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 Chhattisgarh.

The Ministry also provides financial support to States/UTs including Chhattisgarh 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. This assistance is aimed at reducing the frequency of forest fires and improving response mechanisms to contain them effectively and to minimise the impact of forest fires on biodiversity and local communities, ensuring that ecosystems and livelihoods are protected to restore affected forest areas to their natural state, further contributing to environmental conservation and sustainable management of forest resources.

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.

Under the National Action Plan on Forest Fire, the Ministry has outlined measures for active community participation through awareness programmes, empowerment of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Eco-Development Committees (EDCs), and Van Panchayats, and their involvement in prevention, reporting and mock drills, and it also provides for equipping frontline staff and community firefighters with appropriate firefighting tools such as leaf-litter blowers and protective clothing, along with development of user-friendly, region-specific equipment by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.
