

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1240**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

**Fire Prone Forest Areas**

1240. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

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

- (a) the number of cases of forest fires reported in the country during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise including Kerala;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of a report by the Forest Survey of India that about fifty per cent of forest areas in the country are fire prone;
- (c) if so, the details and the findings thereof along with the action taken thereon; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to put in place any mechanism for quick response system for fighting forest fires and to incorporate new technology and involving the local community in fire fighting and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) The details of State/Union Territory wise number of forest fire alerts including Kerala reported by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization of this Ministry, during the last three years and current year are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) & (c) According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2015, published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the estimated fire prone area under heavy, moderate and mild fire are 2.40 percent, 7.49 percent and 54.40 percent respectively, making the total forest fire prone area as 64.29 percent of the Recorded Forest Area (RFA).

The details of Forest Type group-wise percentage of Recorded Forest Area under different fire incidences as published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2015 are given in **Annexure-II**.

It is stated that, tropical Thorn Forests, Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests and Subtropical Broadleaved Hill Forests are more prone to forest fire. Protection and management of forests from various threats including forest fire is primarily the responsibility of respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Ministry issues advisories to State/UT Governments for taking effective steps for prevention and management of forest fires. The Forest Survey of India, Dehradun disseminates satellite based forest fire alerts on a near- real time basis to all the State / UT Forest Departments and other registered users in an effort to assist them to control the forest fire in the initial stage itself at the earliest. The Ministry under the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored “Intensification of Forest Management Scheme” provided

financial assistance to State / UT Forest Departments for various forest protection measures such as protection from forest fire, encroachment, illegal felling etc. Recently, the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme has been revised and replaced as Centrally Sponsored “Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme” to mainly focus on forest fire.

- (d) The Ministry has prepared Crisis Management Plan (CMP) to deal with forest fire effectively with less response time in coordination with stakeholders. Similarly, the State / UT Forest Departments have also prepared CMPs for their respective forest areas to effectively address forest fire issues effectively. The CMPs of this Ministry and the State / UT Forest Departments are periodically updated in order to enhance its effectiveness and further minimizing the response time. Further, as mentioned above, the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, disseminates satellite based forest fire alerts on a near-real time basis to all the State / UT Forest Departments and other registered users in an effort to assist them to control the forest fire in the initial stage itself. The State / UT Forest Departments involve local communities, Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) etc. in various forest protection and conservation measures including prevention and control of forest fire.

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**ANNEXURE-I****ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1240 DUE FOR 22.12.2017 REGARDING FIRE PRONE FOREST AREAS ASKED BY SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS**

S. No.	States/UTs	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	96	1	24	8
2	Andhra Pradesh	2,458	1,075	1,699	1877
3	Arunachal Pradesh	535	358	293	733
4	Assam	2,536	1,656	1,766	1877
5	Bihar	140	45	321	272
6	Chandigarh	-	-	-	1
7	Chhattisgarh	1,018	1,272	2,808	4373
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	-	-	0
9	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	0
10	Delhi	-	-	2	5
11	Goa	3	-	10	32
12	Gujarat	74	117	262	574
13	Haryana	5	6	43	185
14	Himachal Pradesh	32	22	199	170
15	Jammu & Kashmir	74	13	217	113
16	Jharkhand	202	457	740	1133
17	Karnataka	424	295	831	1333
18	Kerala	114	91	165	456
19	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	534	294	2,675	4781
21	Maharashtra	702	721	1,874	3487
22	Manipur	1,774	1,286	1,105	1094
23	Meghalaya	1,123	1,373	966	1454
24	Mizoram	2,189	2,468	1,318	1587
25	Nagaland	886	722	678	930
26	Odisha	1,904	1,467	2,763	4416
27	Puducherry	-	-	-	9
28	Punjab	20	7	45	320
29	Rajasthan	53	90	66	260
30	Sikkim	-	3	-	8
31	Tamil Nadu	284	95	113	301
32	Telangana *	-	1,052	1,154	1748
33	Tripura	1,160	476	346	431
34	Uttar Pradesh	218	130	691	1170
35	Uttarakhand	379	207	1,501	376
36	West Bengal	116	138	142	364
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19,054</b>	<b>15,937</b>	<b>24,817</b>	<b>35,888</b>

\*The number of forest fire alerts disseminated for the fire season 2014 of Telangana is combined with number of forest fire alerts of Andhra Pradesh

**ANNEXURE-II**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (C) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1240 DUE FOR 22.12.2017 REGARDING FIRE PRONE FOREST AREAS ASKED BY SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS**

S. No.	Forest Type Group	Fire Incidence Class			
		Heavy	Moderate	Mild	No fire
1	Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests	1.10	3.12	24.96	70.82
2	Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forests	0.74	3.22	63.87	32.17
3	Tropical Moist deciduous Forests	0.77	5.81	59.70	33.72
4	Littoral and Swamp Forests	0.00	6.25	17.50	76.25
5	Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests	3.95	8.51	53.94	33.60
6	Tropical Thorn Forests	6.36	13.94	56.97	22.73
7	Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests	11.11	27.78	38.89	22.22
8	Subtropical Broadleaved Hill Forests	0.00	5.80	83.33	10.87
9	Subtropical Pine Forests	4.49	24.08	44.90	26.53
10	Montane Wet Temperate Forests	0.00	4.77	52.37	42.86
11	Himalayan Moist Temperate Forests	1.18	12.60	41.51	44.71
12	Himalayan Dry Temperate Forests	0.00	6.25	31.24	62.51
13	Sub-Alpine Forests	0.00	2.18	14.13	83.69
14	Moist Alpine Scrubs	0.00	0.00	12.91	87.09
<b>National Level</b>		<b>2.40</b>	<b>7.49</b>	<b>54.40</b>	<b>35.71</b>