

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 768
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

Forest Fire

768. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives in coordination with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to strengthen the Forest Fire Early Warning and Control Mechanism in the country, making it more effective;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government along with the Forest Protection Division with National Disaster Management Authority, National Institute of Disaster Management and Ministry of Defence took any exigent measures and coordinated with the State Governments to effectively control and douze the forest fires taking the shape of disaster and beyond the capacity of State Forest Department; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The Forest Survey of India monitors the fire incidences in the country based on the data received from various sources including National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). Based on analysis of data, it provides fire alerts to various authorities and the public in the States/UTs on registered mobile numbers at an interval of 6 hours every day. Early Warning System for forest fire is functional at FSI since 2016. The Early Warning alerts are generated every Friday during the Fire season (January-June) and are valid during the ensuring week. The Early Warning alerts are sent to the Nodal officers of concerned States/UTs for taking requisite action in the alerted forest areas. These alerts are based on parameters like Forest Cover, Forest Type, Climate Variables like (Temperature and Rainfall) and recent fire incidences over the area (raw fire hotspots received from NRSC and processed at FSI. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) continuously observes the forest fire incidents and provides information to State Authorities for prevention and control of forest fire.

- (c) & (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has prepared a National Action Plan on Forest Fire which has been sent to various States/UTs Government for taking appropriate action. The Forest Protection Division of the Ministry is the Nodal Division for Disaster Management related to forest fires. The Forest Protection Division coordinates with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and Ministry of Defence to take any exigent measure to effectively control and douse forest fires taking the shape of disaster which are beyond the capacity of State Forest Department. The Ministry has also constituted a Crisis Management Group under the chairmanship of Secretary (EF&CC), which has representatives of various Ministries as its members to deal with crisis arising due to disaster caused by forest fire.
