

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2918
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

Damage due to Forest Fire

2918. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:
DR. TALARI RANGAIAH:
DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the forest fires have increased during the last five years, if so, the details of loss occurred in the forests;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of forest fires in various States particularly in the Vagamon region of Kerala State;
- (c) whether the Government has made efforts to identify the causes and prepared an action plan to tackle the increasing incidence of forest fires in the country including Kerala, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether several endangered reptiles were reported charred in the forest fires in various States;
- (e) whether the raging fire is destroying the ecosystem of forests, shrinking animal habitats and disrupting the food chain leading to migration of wild animals and birds from their habitats to other places for safety; and
- (f) whether a large number of animals have migrated from the north division to the southern parts of the States due to forest fire incidents and if so, the details thereof and corrective steps being taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The State/UT-wise number of forest fire detected by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun using SNPP-VIIRS (Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership -Visible and Infrared Imager Radiometer Suite) sensor over the last five years is given in *Annexure-I*.
- (b) As per the report received from State Government of Kerala, the details of area affected by forest fire in Vagamon area of Kottayam forest division during 2017-18 to 2022-23 is given in *Annexure-II*. During 2021-22 and 2022-23, no forest areas has been reported to be damaged in Vagamon area of Kerala State.
- (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has prepared National Action Plan on Forest Fire to enhance the preparedness, control and response measures to tackle forest fires by state forest departments. The National Action Plan prioritizes on empowering forest fringe communities and incentivizing them to work in tandem with the Forest Departments to prevent and control forest fires; reducing the vulnerability of forests against

fire hazards; enhancing the capabilities of forest personnel and institutions in fighting fires; and restoration of forest fire affected areas.

The Ministry supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, CAMPA and under Development of Wildlife Habitat schemes. These schemes provide support to the state forest departments towards forest fire prevention and mitigation activities including, creation and maintenance of fire lines, water conservation structures, procurement of firefighting equipment, awareness creation, and incentivizing village communities for protection against forest fire etc.

(d) As per the report received from the various State Governments, no major incident of mortality of reptiles is reported in fire incidents.

(e) and (f) As per the report received from various State Governments, the forest fire are mostly ground fires that are sporadic and not enveloping large areas within the landscape. The fuel load in majority of the fire prone areas are dried grasses, which quickly regenerate during monsoons. So far, no lasting damages are noticed due to forest fires resulting in migration of animals and birds from their habitats.

Annexure referred to part (a) and part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2918 due for reply on 07.08.2023 regarding 'Damage due to Forest Fire'.

State/UT-wise number of forest fire detected by Forest Survey of India using SNPP-VIIRS sensor in the last five years. (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires)

S.No.	State/UT	Nov 2018 to June 2019	Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021	Nov 2021 to June 2022	Nov 2022 to June 2023
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	37	39	16	33	20
2	Andhra Pradesh	15,746	9,996	19,328	14,138	19,367
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2,617	1,786	3,914	3,449	2,447
4	Assam	5,935	8,924	10,718	8,158	9,830
5	Bihar	2,450	614	5,179	3,024	3,793
6	Chandigarh	0	2	0	0	1
7	Chhattisgarh	25,750	6,360	38,106	25,792	20,306
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	19	21	33	15	15
9	Daman & Diu	2	0	1	3	1
10	Delhi	20	21	14	3	7
11	Goa	140	47	45	20	147
12	Gujarat	2,885	2,770	3,803	2,769	2,342
13	Haryana	135	68	152	135	82
14	Himachal Pradesh	1,446	536	4,110	5,280	704
15	Jammu & Kashmir including Ladakh	661	438	1,098	4,282	151
16	Jharkhand	6,221	2,613	21,713	9,419	11,923
17	Karnataka	8,078	4,232	5,784	4,973	13,074
18	Kerala	1,162	864	296	504	1,550
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	22,108	9,537	47,795	32,728	17,142
21	Maharashtra	26,939	14,018	34,025	22,052	16,119
22	Manipur	7,384	8,800	10,457	5,544	10,127
23	Meghalaya	5,797	6,762	7,658	6,322	6,604
24	Mizoram	7,597	7,361	12,846	8,734	5,798
25	Nagaland	2,898	2,905	4,975	3,471	3,882
26	Odisha	19,159	10,602	51,968	22,014	33,461
27	Puducherry	4	0	1	0	0
28	Punjab	214	153	635	428	119
29	Rajasthan	3,025	3,461	3,402	2,703	2,059
30	Sikkim	64	47	63	26	49
31	Tamil Nadu	4,402	1,368	1,220	1,035	1,998
32	Telangana	15,262	12,132	18,237	13,737	13,117
33	Tripura	3,083	4,369	5,015	2,609	4,332
34	Uttar Pradesh	4,428	1,548	8,608	5,428	3,235
35	Uttarakhand	12,965	759	21,487	12,985	5,351
36	West Bengal	1,653	1,320	3,287	1,520	3,096
	Total	2,10,286	1,24,473	3,45,989	2,23,333	2,12,249

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2918 due for reply on 07.08.2023 regarding 'Damage due to Forest Fire'.

Sl. No.	Station	Year	Location	Area (Ha)
1.	Vandanpathal-Vagamon	2017-18	Vallikkunnu	2
2.			Avaranthadam	2.50
3.			Uluppooni	1.20
4.			Kolahalamedu	2.50
5.		2018-19	Uluppooni	1.50
6.			Vellaramkunnu	4
7.			Uluppooni	3
8.		2019-20	Vellaramkunnu	1.5
9.			Avaranthadam	5
10.		2020-21	Vellaramchetta	0.22
11.			Pallikkunnu	0.01
12.			Vellaramkunnu	1
13.			Avaranthadam	2
14.			Avaranthadam	2.12
15.			Vedikkuzhy	11
16.			Kavakkulam	0.06
17.		2021-22	NIL	
18.			2022-23	NIL