

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 104
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

Forest Fires

104. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken to prevent and address forest fires in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is facing any challenge in implementing its National Forest Certification Scheme, particularly in addressing the needs and challenges faced by small-scale producers in developing countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to ensure the exchange of traditional knowledge, technology innovation and community engagement practices in the context of forest fire prevention and sustainable forest management; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) The Protection and Management of forest and Wildlife including prevention and control of forest fire is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administrations. The Ministry supports their efforts 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 in various activities 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 etc.

Besides, Forest Survey of India (FSI), generate and disseminates satellite based information, which is “Weekly Early-Warning Alerts” of forest fire and also “Large Forest Fire Monitoring” alerts, to the field forest officials who are registered with FSI. These fire alerts aim at improving

tactical and strategic response to large forest fires by the respective States/UTs Administrations. Currently the number of registered users is around 2.14 lakh across the country. Further, Van Agni Geo Portal is an app developed by FSI monitors large forest fires in various States/UTs throughout the fire season and accordingly alerted the State Forest Departments.

(c) & (d) The Ministry has released Indian Forest Management Standard as a part of National Working Plan Code – 2023. This standard is a basis for monitoring of sustainable forest management in terms of a broad framework comprising criteria, indicators and verifiers which provides the platform for Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme to address the challenges of small scale producers.

(e) & (f) The Implementation of Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme is done through Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMc) and Village Eco-Development Committees by involving active participation of local Community.

Further, this Ministry has formulated the National Action Plan on Forest Fire (NAPFF) in the year 2018 to minimize forest fires by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivizing them to work in tandem with the State Forest Departments. The Ministry has also constituted a Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) which reviews the implementation of NAPFF and preparedness of States/UTs regarding Forest Fire prevention and management in the country.
