

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2513
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

Forest Fires Incidents

2513. SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:
SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:
SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:

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

- (a) whether the forests are being intentionally destroyed on a large scale in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take stringent action against the persons intentionally getting engaged in the said activities;
- (c) whether the cases of forest fires have increased in Jharkhand in the last four years and if so, the details thereof, district-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has made any efforts to identify the causes of such forest fires and corrective measures taken to reduce such incidents;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether any survey has been conducted to estimate the loss of flora and fauna due to the forest fires in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to curb the recurrence of forest fires?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b).The Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, has been carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially, and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometre which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The trend for the last three ISFRs shows an increase in Forest cover of the country. The forest cover has increased by 3,976 square kilometre between ISFR 2017 and ISFR 2019 assessment while there is an increase of 1,540 square kilometre between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 assessment. The State wise details of change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2017, ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure-I**.

Protection of forests are being undertaken under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under, and also under State Specific Acts and Rules.

(c) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), disseminates the satellite-based forest fire alerts to the State Forest Departments and other registered mobile users whenever forest fires are detected. The district wise number of forest fire detected using satellite data in the last four years in the State of Jharkhand are given in **Annexure-II**.

(d) and (e) Forest fires do occur every year during summer months due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulation of inflammable materials such as dry leaves, twigs, pine needles etc. Most of the forest fires in the country are ground fires in which ground vegetation etc. get burnt.

(f) The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun in collaboration with Forest Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India, National Institute of Hydrology and GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development has conducted a pilot study on estimation of economic losses caused due to forest fire in per hectare basis in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh to understand the long-term economic and ecological impacts of forest fires on flora and fauna.

(g) 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, Development of Wildlife Habitats, and under CAMPA. These schemes support various forest fire prevention and mitigation activities including, creation and maintenance of fire lines and water conservation structures inside forest areas, procurement of firefighting equipment, incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. Further, the forest fire prevention and its management is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administration.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2513 due for reply on 18.12.2023 by Shri Adala Prabhakara Reddy, Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Shri Kanakmal Katara and Shrimati Goddeti Madhavi regarding "Forest Fires Incidents"

State/UTs wise details of change in Forest Cover from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2021

(Area in Square Kilometre)

States/UTs	Geographical area	Forest Cover			Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2017 & ISFR 2019 (b-a)	Percentage (%) Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 & ISFR 2021 (c-b)
		ISFR 2017 (a)	ISFR 2019 (b)	ISFR 2021 (c)		
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	28,147	29,137	29,784	1,637	5.82
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,964	66,688	66,431	-533	-0.80
Assam	78,438	28,105	28,327	28,312	207	0.74
Bihar	94,163	7,299	7,306	7,381	82	1.12
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,547	55,611	55,717	170	0.31
Delhi	1,483	192.41	195.44	195	3	1.35
Goa	3,702	2,229	2,237	2,244	15	0.67
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,757	14,857	14,926	169	1.15
Haryana	44,212	1,588	1,602	1,603	15	0.94
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,100	15,434	15,443	343	2.27
Jharkhand	79,716	23,553	23,611	23,721	168	0.71
Karnataka	1,91,791	37,550	38,575	38,730	1,180	3.14
Kerala	38,852	20,321	21,144	21,253	932	4.59
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,414	77,482	77,493	79	0.10
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,682	50,778	50,798	116	0.23
Manipur	22,327	17,346	16,847	16,598	-748	-4.31
Meghalaya	22,429	17,146	17,119	17,046	-100	-0.58
Mizoram	21,081	18,186	18,006	17,820	-366	-2.01
Nagaland	16,579	12,489	12,486	12,251	-238	-1.91
Odisha	1,55,707	51,345	51,619	52,156	811	1.58
Punjab	50,362	1,837	1,849	1,847	10	0.54
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,572	16,630	16,655	83	0.50
Sikkim	7,096	3,344	3,342	3,341	-3	-0.09
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,281	26,364	26,419	138	0.53
Telangana	1,12,077	20,419	20,582	21,214	795	3.89
Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,726	7,722	-4	-0.05
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,679	14,806	14,818	139	0.95
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,295	24,303	24,305	10	0.04
West Bengal	88,752	16,847	16,902	16,832	-15	-0.09
A&N Islands	8,249	6,742	6,743	6,744	2	0.03
Chandigarh	114	21.56	22.03	22.88	1	6.12
Dadra & Nagar Haveli #	491	207	207	227.75	0.26	0.11
Daman & Diu #	111	20.49	20.49			
Jammu & Kashmir*			21,358	21,387	418	1.80
Ladakh	2,22,236	23,241	2,254	2,272		
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	27.10	27.10	0.00	0.00
Puducherry	490	53.67	52.41	53.30	-0.37	-0.70
Grand Total	32,87,469	7,08,273	7,12,249	7,13,789	5,516	0.78

* From ISFR 2019 onwards Jammu & Kashmir was divided into two UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

#From ISFR 2021 onwards Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have been combined into one UT.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2513 due for reply on 18.12.2023 by Shri Adala Prabhakara Reddy, Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Shri Kanakmal Katara and Shrimati Goddeti Madhavi regarding “Forest Fires Incidents”

District-wise number of forest fire detections by Forest Survey of India using SNPP-VIIRS (Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership- Visible and Infrared Imager Radiometer Suite) satellite sensor in the last four years in Jharkhand are:

Districts	Number of forest fire detections by SNPP-VIIRS satellite sensor			
	Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021	Nov 2021 to June 2022	Nov 2022 to June 2023
Bokaro	43	568	191	474
Chatra	63	1264	475	481
Deoghar	0	35	11	28
Dhanbad	6	166	32	207
Dumka	156	476	144	422
East singhbhum	262	1136	242	1005
Garhwa	26	1433	824	213
Giridih	9	553	167	392
Godda	191	436	509	452
Gumla	62	790	468	470
Hazaribagh	271	1951	858	708
Jamtara	2	22	0	29
Khunti	8	598	142	215
Kodarma	29	753	296	402
Latehar	86	2180	1805	800
Lohardaga	59	399	316	271
Pakaur	51	170	134	183
Palamau	13	963	610	302
Ramgarh	193	487	322	302
Ranchi	55	906	229	460
Sahibganj	201	597	673	455
Saraikela	58	810	74	282
Simdega	1	467	56	531
West Singhbhum	768	4553	841	2839
Total	2613	21713	9419	11923
