

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1863**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

**Increase in Forest Fires**

1863. SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:

SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

SHRI BALAK NATH:

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

- (a) whether the cases of forest fires in the country have increased during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Mount Abu, Rajasthan;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted so far to ascertain the factors responsible for such fires, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether forest fires have adversely affected flora and fauna of forests, if so, the details of surveys undertaken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to train forest staff/officials and equip them with modern state-of-the art equipments to control such fires and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps including composting of dried leaves being considered by the Government to check forest fires; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of forest fires?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a), (b) & (c) The number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year depending on various natural and anthropogenic reasons. Forest fires do occur every year during summer due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulation of inflammable materials such as dry leaves, twigs, pine needles etc. These factors have also been highlighted in a joint study by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the World Bank. Most of the forest fires in the country are ground fires in which ground vegetation, etc. get burnt. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) sends forest fire alerts to all registered users on

this alert system. The State/UT- wise number of forest fire alerts sent by FSI during last three fire seasons in **Annexure-I**, and forest fire alerts for Mount Abu, Rajasthan is in **Annexure-II**.

(d),(e)& (f) The responsibility of forest fire prevention and management lies primarily with the respective State/UT. The Ministry supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance for various forest fire prevention and management measures such as modern tools for fire extinguishing, use of communication and information technology, etc creation and maintenance of fire lines in forest areas, engagement of fire watchers, creation of water storage structures in forest areas, strengthening of forest infrastructure, procurement of firefighting equipment, soil and moisture conservation works in high risk areas, awareness creation, incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme. In addition, the FSI has taken following steps to improve the forest fire alert system:-

- (i) FSI has pursued with States/UTs to increase the number of registered users of its alert system. Now, the number of such registered users has increased to around 1.30 lakh.
- (ii) FSI also generates and disseminates “Weekly Early-Warning Alerts” of forest fire to concerned States/UTs.
- (iii) FSI has also initiated an innovative “Large Forest Fire Monitoring” programme in January 2019 which aims at improving tactical as well as strategic response to large forest fires by the respective States/UTs.

In addition to above initiatives by FSI, the Government has constituted a national level committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary of the Ministry that oversees the issues arising out of forest fire. The committee has advised all states to take several measures including constituting State-level Monitoring Committee on Forest Fire, preparing State Action Plan on Forest Fire, and Fire Risk Zonation mapping.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (a), (b) & (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1863 DUE FOR REPLY ON 30.07.2021 REGARDING INCREASE IN FOREST FIRES.**

**Number of forest fire alerts by FSI using SNPP-VIIRS sensors (this includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires) during last 3 years**

State/UT	Nov 2018 to June 2019	Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR Is.	37	39	16
ANDHRA PRADESH	15746	9996	19328
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2617	1786	3914
ASSAM	5935	8924	10718
BIHAR	2450	614	5179
CHANDIGARH	0	2	0
CHHATTISGARH	25750	6360	38106
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	19	21	33
DAMAN & DIU	2	0	1
DELHI	20	21	14
GOA	140	47	45
GUJARAT	2885	2770	3803
HARYANA	135	68	152
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1446	536	4110
JAMMU & KASHMIR	661	438	1098
JHARKHAND	6221	2613	21713
KARNATAKA	8078	4232	5784
KERALA	1162	864	296
LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0
MADHYA PRADESH	22108	9537	47795
MAHARASHTRA	26939	14018	34025
MANIPUR	7384	8800	10457
MEGHALAYA	5797	6762	7658
MIZORAM	7597	7361	12846
NAGALAND	2898	2905	4975
ODISHA	19159	10602	51968
PUDUCHERRY	4	0	1
PUNJAB	214	153	635
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>	<b>3025</b>	<b>3461</b>	<b>3402</b>
SIKKIM	64	47	63
TAMIL NADU	4402	1368	1220
TELANGANA	15262	12132	18237
TRIPURA	3083	4369	5015
UTTAR PRADESH	4428	1548	8608
UTTARAKHAND	12965	759	21487
WEST BENGAL	1653	1320	3287
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210286</b>	<b>124473</b>	<b>345989</b>

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**Number of forest fire detected by FSI SNPP-VIIRS sensors (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires) during last three years for Mount Abu Wildlife Division (Boundary provided by Rajasthan Forest Department)**

Mount Abu Wildlife Division	SNPP-VIIRS Detections		
	Nov 2018 to June 2019	Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021
	16	32	25

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