GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5093**
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2022

**Forest Fire**

5093.     DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:
          SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is true that forests are getting destroyed due to large scale forest fires;
(b) the number of such incidents that come to the notice of the Government in the last three years
    along with the reasons therefor and the number of forest areas saved from the fire, State-wise
    details thereof;
(c) whether it is a fact that climate change has led to an increase in instances of forest fires in the
    country destroying ecosystems of varied species and releasing thousands of tonnes of carbon
    into the atmosphere, if so details thereof;
(d) the details of the budget allocated and utilized by the Government under the Forest Fire
    Prevention and Management Scheme in the last three years; and
(e) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to check the incidents of forest
    fires?

**ANSWER**

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

(a)& (b)     The number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year and
             occur during fire season from November to May every year 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. 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 Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organization
             under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, during last three
             years is given in **Annexure-I**.

(c)          The Ministry in collaboration with the World Bank has conducted a study on
             Situation Analysis of Forest Fire and released a study report titled "Strengthening
             Forest Fire Management in India" which contains various recommendations
             regarding forest fire prevention, detection, suppression, post-fire management,
             engaging with communities, coordination with other agencies. As per the report
             Nation-wide estimates of CO2 released have ranged from 6.34 million tons CO2 per

year to 123.84 million tons CO2 per year. However, data regarding the Carbon released into the atmosphere due to forest fires is not maintained at the level of this Ministry.

(d)     The Ministry supports the efforts of State/Union Territory Governments in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance for various forest fire prevention and management measures under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme based on their Annual Plan of Operation as per the guidelines of the scheme. The details of the budget allocated and utilized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme in the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. In Crore)

| Year | BE (Budget Estimate) | RE (Revised Estimate) | Expenditure incurred |
|------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2018-19 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 46.5742 |
| 2019-20 | 50.00 | 47.00 | 46.8469 |
| 2020-21 | 50.00 | 33.00 | 32.8566 |

(e)     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. A sum of about Rs.125 crore (Rupees One hundred twenty five crore) have been released to the States in last three years (2018-19 to 2020-21) under this 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 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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State/UT-wise number of forest fire detected by Forest Survey of India using SNPP-VIIRS sensors in the last three years. (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires)

| Sr. No | State/UT | SNPP-VIIRS Detections | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Nov 2018 to June 2019 | Nov 2019 to June 2020 | Nov 2020 to Jun 2021 |
| 1 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 37 | 39 | 16 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 15,746 | 9,996 | 19,328 |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | 2,617 | 1,786 | 3,914 |
| 4 | Assam | 5,935 | 8,924 | 10,718 |
| 5 | Bihar | 2,450 | 614 | 5,179 |
| 6 | Chandigarh | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 7 | Chhattisgarh | 25,750 | 6,360 | 38,106 |
| 8 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 19 | 21 | 33 |
| 9 | Daman & Diu | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 | Delhi | 20 | 21 | 14 |
| 11 | Goa | 140 | 47 | 45 |
| 12 | Gujarat | 2,885 | 2,770 | 3,803 |
| 13 | Haryana | 135 | 68 | 152 |
| 14 | Himachal Pradesh | 1,446 | 536 | 4,110 |
| 15 | Jammu & Kashmir | 661 | 438 | 1,098 |
| 16 | Jharkhand | 6,221 | 2,613 | 21,713 |
| 17 | Karnataka | 8,078 | 4,232 | 5,784 |
| 18 | Kerala | 1,162 | 864 | 296 |
| 19 | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Madhya Pradesh | 22,108 | 9,537 | 47,795 |
| 21 | Maharashtra | 26,939 | 14,018 | 34,025 |
| 22 | Manipur | 7,384 | 8,800 | 10,457 |
| 23 | Meghalaya | 5,797 | 6,762 | 7,658 |
| 24 | Mizoram | 7,597 | 7,361 | 12,846 |
| 25 | Nagaland | 2,898 | 2,905 | 4,975 |
| 26 | Odisha | 19,159 | 10,602 | 51,968 |
| 27 | Puducherry | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 28 | Punjab | 214 | 153 | 635 |
| 29 | Rajasthan | 3,025 | 3,461 | 3,402 |
| 30 | Sikkim | 64 | 47 | 63 |
| 31 | Tamil Nadu | 4,402 | 1,368 | 1,220 |
| 32 | Telangana | 15,262 | 12,132 | 18,237 |
| 33 | Tripura | 3,083 | 4,369 | 5,015 |
| 34 | Uttar Pradesh | 4,428 | 1,548 | 8,608 |
| 35 | Uttarakhand | 12,965 | 759 | 21,487 |
| 36 | West Bengal | 1,653 | 1,320 | 3,287 |
| | **Total** | **2,10,286** | **1,24,473** | **3,45,989** |

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