

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.72**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

**Increasing Cases of Forest Fires**

72. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:  
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:  
SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of forest fires including the recent incident of major forest fire outbreak inside the Sariska National Park in Rajasthan which resulted in huge loss of forest area are increasing in the country and if so, the details thereof of the incidents of forest fires in the country during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has done any study to analyze the reasons for the increase in incidents of forest fire outbreaks in the country and its potential impact on the flora and fauna of the affected areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan taken by the Government along with the States to overcome the challenges of forest fire due to heat wave, natural and unnatural causes, if any, in the future and 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) Forest fire do occur every year during summer due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulations 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 number of incidences of forest fire in the country varies from year to year depending on various natural and anthropogenic reasons. The Number of forest fire alerts disseminated by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) using SNPP-VIIRS sensors (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires) during last three years to various States/UT's are given in Annexure-I.
- (b)& (c) 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 etc. Inputs from the study were used by the Ministry in preparation of National Action Plan on Forest Fire which has been circulated to all State/UTs in April,2018 to take appropriate action.

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. 113 crore (Rupees One Hundred Thirteen crore) has been released to the State Governments/UTs during last three years (2018-19 to 2021-22) 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 1.55 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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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 72 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.07.2022 REGARDING INCREASING CASES OF FOREST FIRES.**

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)

S. No.	State/UT	SNPP-VIIRS Detections		
		Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021	Nov 2021 to June 2022
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	39	16	33
2	Andhra Pradesh	9,996	19,328	14,138
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,786	3,914	3,449
4	Assam	8,924	10,718	8,158
5	Bihar	614	5,179	3,024
6	Chandigarh	2	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	6,360	38,106	25,792
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21	33	15
9	Daman & Diu	0	1	3
10	Delhi	21	14	3
11	Goa	47	45	20
12	Gujarat	2,770	3,803	2,769
13	Haryana	68	152	135
14	Himachal Pradesh	536	4,110	5,280
15	Jammu & Kashmir	438	1,098	4,282
16	Jharkhand	2,613	21,713	9,419
17	Karnataka	4,232	5,784	4,973
18	Kerala	864	296	504
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	9,537	47,795	32,728
21	Maharashtra	14,018	34,025	22,052
22	Manipur	8,800	10,457	5,544
23	Meghalaya	6,762	7,658	6,322
24	Mizoram	7,361	12,846	8,734
25	Nagaland	2,905	4,975	3,471
26	Odisha	10,602	51,968	22,014
27	Puducherry	0	1	0
28	Punjab	153	635	428
29	Rajasthan	3,461	3,402	2,703
30	Sikkim	47	63	26
31	Tamil Nadu	1,368	1,220	1,035
32	Telangana	12,132	18,237	13,737
33	Tripura	4,369	5,015	2,609
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,548	8,608	5,428
35	Uttarakhand	759	21,487	12,985
36	West Bengal	1,320	3,287	1,520
Total		1,24,473	3,45,989	2,23,333

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