

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1177
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

Loss due to Forest Fires

1177. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH:

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

- (a) the response of the Government to the satellite data revealing massive forest loss in Manipur during wildfire near Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh and ongoing forest fires across the country during the last five years;
- (b) the action taken by the Government following National Green Tribunal (NGT) directive highlighting Uttarakhand's acute lack of firefighting infrastructure including no protective gear, vehicles, communication systems, and only one guard per 2,448 hectares, despite 1,276 fires in 2024;
- (c) whether a real-time nationwide remote-sensing and early-alert mechanism has been implemented across all high-risk States such as Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof along with State and district-wise list of forest burnt during the last ten years;
- (d) the reasons behind not enforcing robust capacity building, equipment provisioning, and professional staffing by the Government as recommended by NGT in Uttarakhand; and
- (e) the details of quarterly data on forest fires, loss areas, response times, and expenditures for last five years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) Forest fires in India are a recurring challenge arising from both natural causes such as high temperatures, prolonged dry spells and lightning, as well as human-induced factors including shifting cultivation, deliberate burning for fodder and accidental ignition. These risks are further aggravated by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and increased accumulation of dry fuel load, particularly in hill regions and dry deciduous forests. Forest protection, including prevention and management of forest fires, primarily rests with the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

The Ministry monitors forest fire incidents through the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, which issues satellite-based Pre-Forest Fire Alerts, Near Real-Time Forest Fire Alerts and Large Forest Fire Alerts to the State Forest Departments. The Ministry also supports the States in taking timely mitigation, control and post-fire management measures. Further, a real-time nationwide remote-sensing and alert system has been operationalised by FSI for all States, including high-risk regions such as Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand. FSI also conducts biennial forest resource

assessments under the ISFR series and has carried out a national-level burnt area assessment for the 2023–24 forest fire season, the details of which are placed at **Annexure-I**.

To strengthen forest fire prevention and management, the Ministry has taken several measures including preparation of the National Action Plan on Forest Fire, facilitation of State/UT-level Action Plans, and provision of early-warning alerts through FSI. In coordination with NDMA and NDRF, the Ministry has trained three specialized teams comprising 150 personnel for managing large forest fire incidents. The Ministry supplements State efforts through technical support, early-warning systems, capacity-building initiatives and financial assistance.

The Ministry provides financial support to States/UTs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Forest Fire Prevention and Management (CSS-FFPM), under which funds are released for creation and maintenance of fire lines, engagement of fire watchers, construction of water storage structures, procurement of fire-fighting equipment, awareness activities and restoration of burnt areas. The details of financial assistance under CSS-FFPM released to States/UTs, along with forest fire detections for the last five forest fire seasons (November 2020 to June 2025), are placed at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1177 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.12.2025 REGARDING “LOSS DUE TO FOREST FIRES” BY SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH.

The State/UT wise burnt area assessment during the forest fire seasons November 2023 to June 2024.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total Burnt Area in Square Kilometre
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5,286.76
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	126.03
4.	Assam	419.20
5.	Bihar	682.74
6.	Chandigarh	0.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	3,812.28
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	0.00
9.	Delhi	0.00
10.	Goa	0.45
11.	Gujarat	408.61
12.	Haryana	44.63
13.	Himachal Pradesh	783.11
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	438.86
15.	Jharkhand	1,086.46
16.	Karnataka	2,088.35
17.	Kerala	208.96
18.	Ladakh	0.00
19.	Lakshadweep	0.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3,172.13
21.	Maharashtra	4,095.04
22.	Manipur	285.20
23.	Meghalaya	463.95
24.	Mizoram	243.76
25.	Nagaland	161.77
26.	Odisha	2,463.74
27.	Puducherry	0.00
28.	Punjab	40.55
29.	Rajasthan	424.47
30.	Sikkim	2.08
31.	Tamil Nadu	1,322.74
32.	Telangana	3,983.28
33.	Tripura	190.47
34.	Uttar Pradesh	257.88
35.	Uttarakhand	1,808.90
36.	West Bengal	259.93
Total		34,562.33

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1177 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.12.2025 REGARDING “LOSS DUE TO FOREST FIRES” BY SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH.

Details of financial assistance under CSS-FFPM released to States/UTs in the last five financial years

(Amount in Crores)

Financial Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Fund released	32.47	34.26	28.25	39.18	30.76

Details of Forest fire detections for the last five forest fire seasons (November 2020 to June 2025)

Forest Fire Seasons	November 2020 to June 2021	November 2021 to June 2022	November 2022 to June 2023	November 2023 to June 2024	November 2024 to June 2025
Forest Fire Detections	3,45,989	2,23,333	2,12,249	2,03,544	2,38,309