

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021

Damage to forests due to pine trees

2122. SHRI ANIL BALUNI:

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

- (a) whether the pine trees are causing damage to forests, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether there is any planning to remove pine trees, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) In India Chir pine (known as *Pinus roxburghii*) forests are found in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Himchal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, parts of Sikkim, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh. Pine forest naturally occurs on the driest and rockiest slopes. The damage caused by Pine trees in forests is mainly in the form of fire hazard. Forest fire caused every summer due to Pine needles dropped on forest floor is a concern in these forests.
- (b) The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations take care of conservation and maintenance of forests. Trees are removed from the forest as per prescription of Working Plan approved by Central Government, and as per laid down procedures. Presently, there is ban on removal of green trees above altitude of 1000 mtr, as per direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Central Government supplements the efforts of States and UTs 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.

In addition, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules 2018 provide for utilization of net present value component of the fund for capacity building and providing appropriate firefighting equipments to forest fire fighting squads and activities for forest fire management in the States.

Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry disseminates satellite-based forest fire alerts to State/UT Forest Departments and other registered mobile users whenever forest fires are detected.

The Ministry is the nodal Ministry for disaster management caused by forest fire in the country. For supervision and review of forest fire management, a Central Monitoring Committee has been constituted in the Ministry under the chairmanship of Secretary MoEF&CC.
