

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1827
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Action plan to address forest fires

1827. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the details of the data on the percentage of forest cover in the country prone to forest fires;
- (b) the details of the periodic assessments, if any, being carried out to test the preparedness to conduct emergency drills for curbing forest fires;
- (c) whether Government plans to demarcate areas of forest cover as forest fire prone areas on the basis of the frequency of forest fires in that area; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to limit slash and burn cultivation as the main trigger for forest fires?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has carried out a study based on spatial analysis of forest fires detected over the past 17 years (2004 to 2021), and have identified the fire prone forest areas in the country. Based on the study, the forest area has been mapped under different fire prone classes as follows:

S.No	Category	Forest Cover (in sq km)	% of total forest cover
1	Extremely Fire Prone	20 074.47	2.81
2	Very Highly Fire Prone	56 049.35	7.85
3	Highly Fire Prone	82 900.1 7	11.61
4	Moderately Fire Prone	94,126.68	13.19
5	Less Fire Prone	4 60 638.36	64.54
	Total	7,13, 789.03	100.00

(b) and
(c)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has prepared National Action Plan on Forest Fire to minimize forest fires. The plan comprises taking actions by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivizing them to work in tandem with the Forest Departments. It also comprises reducing vulnerability of forests against fire hazards, enhancing the capabilities of forest personnel and institutions in fighting fires, and speeding up recovery after a fire event. The Ministry has also constituted Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) for overseeing implementation of National Action Plan on Forest Fire.

The Ministry also supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance. The forest fire prevention and mitigation measures are funded under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, Development of Wildlife Habitats, and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority. The funds are used for creation and maintenance of fire lines, construction of water conservation structures, procurement of firefighting equipment, awareness creation, and incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. Further, the forest fire prevention and its management is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administration.

(d)

The Government has issued advisories to the States to generate awareness among the forest fringe communities to protect the forests from fire from time to time. Under the centrally sponsored scheme incentives are provided to the communities, Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco Development Committees for protecting the forests from fires.
