

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 838
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

Forest Fires

838. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether Government has drawn up any plan to deal with incidents of forest fire in the country; and
- (b) 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)& (b) The Ministry has formulated the National Action Plan on Forest Fire (NAPFF) in the year 2018 to minimize forest fires by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivizing them to work in tandem with the State Forest Departments, reducing the vulnerability of forests across the diverse forest ecosystems in the country 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 a Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) which reviews the implementation of NAPFF and preparedness of States/UTs regarding Forest Fire prevention and management in the country.

The Ministry also supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, Development of Wildlife Habitats, and under CAMPA. These schemes support various forest fire prevention and mitigation activities including, creation and maintenance of fire lines and water conservation structures inside forest areas, procurement of firefighting equipment, awareness creation, and incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc.

Further, the Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organization under the Ministry disseminates the satellite-based forest fire alerts to the State Forest Departments and other registered mobile users whenever forest fires are detected. At the field level, the Forest fire prevention and its management is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administration
