

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1010
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Prevention of forest fires

1010. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

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

- (a) the details of the number of forest fires reported in the country during the last year, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to prevent forest fires and to protect the country's forests and wildlife; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by Government to address the issue of climate change and to reduce the country's carbon footprint?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Forest fire incidences in the country are detected by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun using satellite-mounted sensors. As per the data received from the FSI, Dehradun, the State/UT-wise total forest fire incidences detected in the last forest fire season i.e., November 2023 to June 2024 are given in **Annexure**.

(b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has put in place a National Action Plan on Forest Fire-2018, which provides comprehensive measures to prevent forest fires and to improve the resilience of the forests against fire hazards. The State Governments/UT Administrations also prepare State Action Plans, in tandem with the National Action Plan to undertake State/UT-specific measures towards forest fire prevention and management.

To prevent forest fires, the Ministry through the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun provides one-week advance Pre-Fire Alerts, Large Forest Fire Alerts and Near Real Time Forest Fire Alerts to the registered subscribers and State Forest department officials to combat forest fires.

The Ministry in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have trained three battalions of the NDRF, comprising 150 personnel to tackle Large Forest Fires. These battalions are deployed as per the requirements to control forest fires.

The Protection of forests and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal provisions for the protection of forests and wildlife, which include, the Indian Forest Act 1927, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, and the State Forest Acts, and Rules, etc. The State Governments /UT Administrations take

appropriate actions to protect forests and wildlife under the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules. The Ministry also supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in the prevention and control of forest fires by providing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme as well as through CAMPA funds.

(c) Climate change is a global collective action problem. Reports from various sources, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, highlight that the challenges faced due to global warming are mainly due to cumulative historical and current greenhouse gas emissions of the developed countries. India with more than 17% of the global population has contributed only about 4% of the global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between 1850 and 2019.

Under the Paris Agreement in 2015, India submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) balancing the concerns and priorities of climate change, sustainable development including poverty eradication, and economic growth of the country. In August 2022, India updated its NDC according to which India has an enhanced target to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030 from the 2005 level, achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. Further, in November 2022, India has submitted its Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy to achieve net-zero by 2070. In December 2023, India submitted National Communication-3 and submitted its 4th Biennial Update Report in December, 2024. India has achieved reduction of emission intensity of 36% between 2005 and 2020 (target in 2015 NDC was 33-35%), cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources of 47.10 % (December 2024) (target in 2015 NDC was 40%). As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, India has reached to 30.43 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent which indicates that as compared to the base year of 2005 India has reached to 2.29 billion tonnes of additional carbon sink.

The Government is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It is the overarching policy framework and comprises 09 national missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, water, agriculture, the Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge on climate change. Consistent with the objectives of NAPCC, 34 States/Union Territories have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs). In addition, the Government has launched many schemes and programs to scale up India's action on both, climate adaptation and mitigation.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1010 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.02.2025 REGARDING PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES ASKED BY SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL

State/UT-wise number of forest fires detected by Forest Survey of India using satellite mounted sensors in the last forest fire season i.e. November-2023 to June-2024. (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires)

Sr. No	State/UTs	Number of forest fire detections
		November 2023 to June 2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	18,174
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2,053
3	Assam	7,639
4	Bihar	2,763
5	Chhattisgarh	18,950
6	Delhi	16
7	Goa	36
8	Gujarat	3,182
9	Haryana	166
10	Himachal Pradesh	10,136
11	Jharkhand	7,525
12	Karnataka	5,500
13	Kerala	1,110
14	Madhya Pradesh	15,878
15	Maharashtra	16,008
16	Manipur	4,498
17	Meghalaya	4,319
18	Mizoram	6,627
19	Nagaland	2,609
20	Odisha	20,973
21	Punjab	605
22	Rajasthan	4,352
23	Sikkim	101
24	Tamil Nadu	3,380
25	Telangana	13,479
26	Tripura	2,089
27	Uttar Pradesh	4,424
28	Uttarakhand	21,033
29	West Bengal	2,020
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21
31	Chandigarh	1
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	16
33	Jammu & Kashmir	3,829
34	Ladakh	32
35	Lakshadweep	0
36	Puducherry	0
Total		2,03,544