

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Steps taken to prevent wild fire and protect the ecosystem

2296. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to reduce the incidents of wild fire and minimise their impact on biodiversity and local communities;
- (b) if so, the strategies adopted for early detection and prevention of wild fire and public awareness; and
- (c) the steps being taken to restore affected forest areas and to enhance their capacity to prevent future incidents of wild fire?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry 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 Pre-Fire Alerts (one-week advance), 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 a total of 150 personnel to tackle Large Forest Fires. These battalions are deployed as per the requirements to control forest fires.

The Ministry also supports the efforts of States and Union Territories in the prevention and control of forest fires by providing financial assistance through the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Schemes as well as CAMPA

(Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) funds. This assistance is aimed at reducing the frequency of forest fires and improving response mechanisms to contain them effectively and to minimize the impact of forest fires on biodiversity and local communities, ensuring that ecosystems and livelihoods are protected and to restore affected forest areas to their natural state, further contributing to environmental conservation and the sustainable management of forest resources.
