

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2859
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
LOSSES TO TIMBER DUE TO FIRE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Forest Survey of India (FSI) had estimated that timber worth Rs. 35 crore is lost in fires in 63 million hectares of Indian forest every day apart from unaccounted damage to bio-diversity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Satellite-linked Fire Alert System is turning out to be an effective tool in saving wild-life and bio-diversity from forest fires apart from saving time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) No. Forest Survey of India (FSI) has not made any study to estimate the loss of timber and damage to biodiversity, wildlife due to forest fires. However, generally the forest fires are ground fire, which do not cause damage to tree, but they do effect ground flora and micro-fauna.

(c) & (d) Forest Survey of India has set up a fire alert system based on information provided by MODIS satellite under which an sms/e-mail alert is generated for registered users of FSI website (www.fsi.nic.in). Although no specific study has been made of the effectiveness of this tool yet the feedback from the State and UT forest departments indicates that high accuracy of the fire reporting by the systems, which also facilitate quicker measures to control fire. Moreover, FSI has also identified State/UT wise forest fire seasons and forest fire prone areas which is likely to contribute to better forest fire management.