

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2910

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011

INCIDENCE OF FIRE IN FOREST AREA

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the forest fire destroys forest wealth including wildlife in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of loss incurred as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the extent of loss caused due to forest fire during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to effectively control the forest fire during the summer months;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the success achieved by the Government in controlling forest fire in various parts of the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Forest fire does destroy forest wealth including wildlife, depending upon the intensity and extent of such fire, in various parts of the country. The details of loss of wildlife due to forest fires are not compiled by the Ministry as same is maintained by the State/Union Territory Governments.

(c) No such study has been conducted to assess the extent of loss caused due to forest fire. However, generally the forest fires are ground fire, which do not cause damage to tree, but they do effect ground flora and micro-fauna.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests 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 Forest Survey of India (FSI) website (www.fsi.nic.in). Although no specific study has been made of the effectiveness of this tool yet 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 the fire. Moreover FSI has also identified State/Union Territories wise forest fire seasons and forest fire prone areas which is likely to contribute to better forest fire management.

In addition, the Central Government provides financial assistance under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensification of Forest Management" for undertaking various forest-fire control and management steps such as clearing of forest-fire lines, engagement of fire watchers during summer months to all forest fire prone states. During the 11th five year plan, the Central Government has provided assistance to the tune of about `139.92 crores for the above purpose. The State wise details are annexed.