

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:473
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
INCIDENTS OF FIRE IN FOREST AREAS
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

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

- (a) whether the various incidents of breaking fire in forests are increasing in various parts of the country due to which valuable medicinal plants are damaged and adjoining human habitations are also endangered;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents and effective measures taken to extinguish said fire immediately without harming the property, cattle and human beings; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) & (b) There are no specific reports received in the Ministry regarding increase in incidents of fire in forests due to which valuable medicinal plants are damaged and adjoining human habitations are also endangered. However, there are incidences of fire in the forests of the country. These fires are generally in the nature of ground fire in which dried fallen material on the forest floor gets burnt. The forest regenerates after rainfall subsequently.
- (c) & (d) Measures taken by States/UT governments for protection of forests from fires include creation and maintenance of fire lines in forest areas, engaging fire watchers, establishing forest camps, regular patrolling by forest personnel etc. Support of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) is also taken in this regard. Government of India also provides funds to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensification of Forest Management Scheme" (IFMS) which supplements the efforts of State/UT Governments. In addition the Forest Survey of India (FSI) monitors forest fires on a daily basis during the fire season using satellite data and information is sent to concerned State/UTs to take immediate action for controlling these fires.