

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2691

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014

FOREST FIRE

Ering Shri Ninong;Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad;Sathyabama Smt. V.

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

- (a) the percentage of forest area regarded as fire prone in the country;
- (b) the estimated forest area affected by forest fire during the last three years, State-wise including North-Eastern States;
- (c) the details of modern effective control mechanism available with the Government to control forest fire;
- (d) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government for effective forest fire control mechanism; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) As per the report received from the Forest Survey of India (FSI), the estimated fire prone areas under heavy, moderate and mild fire are 1.33 percent, 6.48 percent and 46.10 percent respectively, making the total forest fire prone area out of the recorded forest area as 53.91 percent. This estimation is done on the basis of National Forest Inventory Data (field data) collected during 2004-2012 from the 179 districts representing all forest areas of the country.

(b) The estimated forest area affected by forest fire during the last three years is not available with the Ministry. However, state-wise active forest fire locations reported during the last three years are enclosed as Annexure-I.

As per the information furnished by the FSI, the annual forest area of the country affected by forest fire on an average for the period 2004-2012 is estimated to be 3.69 percent of recorded forest area that comes out to be 28480 sq. km.

(c) FSI has established a near real time forest fire monitoring system together with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad where by forest fire alerts are generated on daily basis during the fire season. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change provides Grants-in-aid to State/Union Territory (UT) Governments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) which inter alia has an important component of Forest Fire Control and Management. The aim of the scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States for forest management and protection. Funds under the scheme are inter alia utilized for creation and maintenance of fire lines, purchase of modern fire fighting equipments, patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, forest fire control and strengthening of the forest infrastructure etc.

(d) &(e) Yes sir, a proposal of Rs. 609.28 crores 'to enhance the capabilities to deal with the forest fires' has been prepared and submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat. The details of the proposal are given in the Annexure-II.