

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:955
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
REPORT ON FIRE IN FORESTS
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report `Forest fires in India` brought out by the Worldwide Fund for nature;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the suggestions/recommendations given in this report; and
- (d) the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b) Yes sir. World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India) has published a report during the current year entitled `Fires in India` - Lessons from Case Studies. This report is based on baseline information collected on forest fires from selected localities of eight Indian States. As per this report, almost all forest fires are man made (intentional or unintentional). Intentional fires ignited by communities are set in the forests for various reasons such as to promote tender growth of herbaceous vegetation, collection of Non Timber forest produce or to propitiate the local deity etc.

(c) & (d) There are no concrete suggestions / recommendations in the report. However, in the conclusion part of the report the need for more information, comprehensive research, early warning and other infrastructural / institutional support has been emphasized so that fire can be utilized as a management tool. It is suggested that the best strategy seems to be to control recurrent fires through all measures that are in our command with community participation. The problems of forest fire in the Country is an issue of significance and is being addressed to. Financial assistance is being made available to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry to undertake necessary measures for prevention and control of forest fires. As suggested in the report cooperation of the local people through Joint Forest Management Committees is being solicited in controlling / fighting the forest fires.