

**Ministry of Home Affairs
Disaster Management Division
(National Emergency Response Centre)**

**Brief Report on Forest Fire incident in Dzukou Valley as on 08th January, 2021
at 1830 Hrs.**

1. An incident of massive forest fire has occurred since 29.12.2020 in Dzukou valley under Kohima District of Nagaland and Senapati District of Manipur, which is yet to be contained. Valley is a relatively remote and inaccessible area of states and given the terrain, high altitude and other factors the emergency response operation is challenge. Dzukou Valley is famous for its multicolored carpets of natural flowers and greeneries which make the hub of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Ecologically and environmentally, Dzukou Valley is a significant valley to the states and in the North East region.

2. Steps taken by Central Government:

- i. Situation is being closely monitored 24x7 at highest level.
- ii. A meeting of National Executive Committee (NEC) held on 07. 01.2020 under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary to review the current status of forest fire in the Dzukou Valley under Kohima District of Nagaland and Senapati District of Manipur and to discuss the further course of action to contain the spread of forest fire. Member Secretary NDMA, Secretary MoEF&CC, Secretary MoES, CISC IDS, DG NDRF, Director ISRO, Assam Rifle, Chief Secretary, Manipur and Nagaland had attended the meeting.
- iii. 04 teams of NDRF are deployed in Manipur and 06 teams of NDRF are deployed in Nagaland. NDRF assisting State Administrations in carrying out dousing operations.
- iv. 04 MI-17 Helicopter fitted with Bambi Bucket have been deployed for spraying of water over the affected area and are constantly engaged in dousing fire. Till date 104 sorties/ 110:25 hours including 53 sorties/ 65:40 hours of Bambi ops with 108,250 ltrs of water sprayed.

3. Nodal Ministry

- i. As per CMP-2019, each Central Nodal Ministry will be responsible for taking actions, reporting all developments and dealing with crisis situation falling within their domain of responsibility.
- ii. As per Crisis Management Plan-2019 of Cabinet Secretariat and National Disaster Management Plan-2019, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoES&CC) is the Central Nodal Ministry for forest fire.

4. Current Situation

- i. Personnel of NDRF, SDRF/Home Guard and Civil Defence, Police, T.A Bn and supported by DDMA of respective States and DFO, and volunteers have been working to make the traditional fire control line to protect the fragile portion of the valley.
- ii. Operations by IAF Hepters with spraying of waters are underway.
- iii. A temporary office of NSDMA setup in Dimapur airport to lounge to monitor coordinate the air operation by IAF for Dzukou forest fire.
- iv. Aerial assessment by NSDMA and NDRF Official carried out at 0900 hrs of 8th Jan, 2021. As per the observation of the team, active fire was sighted only in one location, which was isolated. Over all, the team reported that Fire seems to have been brought under control.
- v. It was observed that the spread of active fire and fresh fire has been brought under control.

5. Steps taken by State Government Nagaland & Manipur: -

i. Nagaland

- The personnel of DDMA, SDRF, Home Guard, Civil Defence, Forest Department/Police and volunteers of SAYO have been deployed.
- Forest Department /Police and volunteers of SAYO camping in the Valley to keep a watch.
- As of 08th Jan 2021 more water bodies around the vicinity of Dzukou Valley are being explored to draw water by bombi bucket fixed on the IAF hepters.
- A review meeting on Dzukou Forest Fire was held on 8th Jan, 2021 at 10:30 AM, chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister and Chairman NSDMA.

ii. Manipur

- On spot assessment of the extent of wildfire was carried out.
- The Government is making all possible efforts to support supply system of essential items at the base camp of the firefighters by providing medicines, blankets mattresses and generators.
- A team from forest department visited affected area to access the damage by fire and for further course of action.
