

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2113

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018/PHALGUNA 23, 1939 (SAKA)

FIRE SAFETY SITUATION

2113.        SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken stock of fire safety situation due to various fire related accidents across the country;

(b) whether Government has given any directions to meet the response time in case of fire related accidents;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the presence of basic fire fighting equipment in all public infrastructures as well as compliance with building norms; and

(d) what are the safety measures to be followed both in commercial and residential buildings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): Directorate General (Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards), Ministry of Home Affairs had engaged a technical consultant to carry out Fire & Risk Hazard Analysis of the country in 2011. The report published by the consultant indicated deficiencies against the requirement of fire stations, fire fighting appliances/vehicles, specialized firefighting equipments and fire personnel across the country. The report was forwarded to concerned States for appropriate action.

(b): The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) with representation from all States. SFAC meets from time to time to examine the problems of Fire Services in the country and recommend suitable measures to upgrade the Standards of Fire Services. SFAC has prescribed norms for response time. These norms recommended by SFAC are advisory in nature.

(c) & (d): The Fire Services have been included as a Municipal Function in the XII<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution of India under Article 243 (W). As such, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to ensure safety of life and property of the citizens in the area of their jurisdiction.

The SFAC constituted by the Union Government have laid down norms for establishment of Fire Stations, Equipment, Manpower and Fire tenders/ Vehicles. However, these norms recommended by SFAC are advisory in nature.

The National Building Code of India (NBC), prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), covers the detailed guidelines for construction, maintenance and fire safety of structures. This is a voluntary Code intended to serve as a model Code for adoption/use by agencies like the PWD and other Government construction departments, local bodies and other construction agencies. The implementation of National Building Code comes within the purview of Urban Local Bodies and Urban Development Authorities who are responsible for sanctioning the Building Plans and issue Occupation Certificate.

The National Model Building Code 2016 has dedicated chapter on “Fire and Life safety”, which includes fire safety measures for residential and commercial buildings. Advisories were issued to all the State Governments to incorporate and implement the provisions of latest Model Building Code in their building bye-laws. The Directorate General (Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards) issued advisories to the State Governments to conduct Fire and Life Safety Audits in the High Rise Buildings.

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