GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1770
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2004
DELHI FIRE SERVICES
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Connaught Place and other major markets do not come under the purview of the Delhi Fire Service and that no fire safety norms are adhered to by these markets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has considered the desirability of bringing the city markets under the purview of a regulatory body to stipulate fire safety norms and also to ensure implementation with a view to avoid any tragedy that might be caused due to fire;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.REGHUPATHY)

(a) & (b): In so far as responding to fire calls and extinguishing fire is concerned, all markets, buildings and other structures in the Union Territory of Delhi come under the preview of the Delhi Fire Service. The fire safety norms are enforced by Delhi Fire Service under the provisions of the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 and the Delhi Fire Safety and Prevention Rules, 1987 which provide for installation of fire safety measures in buildings the minimum height of which is 15 metres. However, the Building By-Laws laid down in 1983 provide for fire safety measures in the buildings even less than 15 metres in height provided they belong to specified categories (e.g. assembly buildings, educational institutions, etc.) and have been constructed after the said bye-laws were also prescribed. These provisions are also enforced by Delhi Fire Service.

(c) to (e): There is no proposal to exclusively bring the market complexes in Delhi under the regime of fire safety norms under the consideration of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi at present. However, the buildings of a height of 15 metres or more in any area including markets are already covered.