

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:173

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010

MODERNISATION OF FIRE SERVICES

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fire protection capacity in the country is at par with international standards;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has drawn up a plan/is implementing scheme for the modernisation of fire services;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the allocation of funds and utilization made thereof in this regard alongwith the status of discussions with multilateral financial institutions for securing funds for the said project;
- (f) whether the Union Government has received project reports from the various State Governments on the modernization of fire services in the States; and
- (g) if so, the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 173 FOR 09.03.2010

(a) & (b): In India, the Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs recommends/prescribes norms for Fire Service related matters. The norms for `Fire Services` recommended by the SFAC are advisory in nature and enclosed as Annexure. `Fire Services` is a State subject and has been included as a municipal function in the XII Schedule of the Constitution of India in terms of Article 243- W. As such, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to adopt these norms and allocate sufficient resources for strengthening and equipping Fire Services.

(c) to (e): Government has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at a cost of Rs.200 crores for `Strengthening of Fire & Emergency Services in the Country` on 10th November 2009. The Scheme attempts to fill the existing gaps in the fire fighting and rescue capability through introduction of modern technology such as Advanced Fire Tenders, High Pressure Pump with Mist Technology, Quick Response Team Vehicle, Combi Tools for Search & Rescue and capacity building of various stakeholders. An amount of Rs. 13.40 crore has been released to the State Governments recently for implementing the Scheme. Securing funds for the Scheme through multilateral financial institutions is not envisaged at this stage.

(f) & (g): Yes, Madam. After examining the proposals and based on the allocation of Rs.200 crore by the Planning Commission a Scheme for Strengthening the Fire & Emergency Services has been approved as a supplemental initiative.