

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2254
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
MODERNISATION OF FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES
Das Shri Ram Sundar;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fire fighting capacity in the country is as per international standard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total funds granted/released/utilised for modernization of fire fighting services alongwith the Status of consultation with the multi-purpose financial institutions to get funds for the same during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received project reports from the State Governments on modernization of fire fighting services in the States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the other measures taken by the Government for modernization of fire fighting services in the States?

Answer

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

(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-I.

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): Government of India has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at a cost of 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. State wise details of funds released to State Government during last three years under the "Scheme of Strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services" in the country is given in Annexure-II.

Securing funds for the scheme through multilateral financial institutions is not envisaged at this stage.

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

In addition, Government of India is also upgrading National Fire Service College, Nagpur at a cost of 205 crore to strengthen the institutional capacity for meeting the requirement of trained fire personnel.

Besides above, the 13th Finance Commission has also provided a grant of 87,519 crore to the local bodies. A portion of this grant is available to the urban local bodies (of population more than 1 million) subject to complying with the conditions of putting in place a fire hazard response and mitigation plan for their respective jurisdiction.

13th Finance Commission has also recommended an allocation of 472 crores to the 7 States namely Andhra Pradesh (17 crore), Haryana (100 crore), Mizoram (20 crore), Odisha (150 crore), Tripura (15 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi) (20 crore) and West Bengal (150 crore) for strengthening of Fire & Emergency Services.

Government of India has already released 1st installments of the grant of 124.39 crore to the above mentioned 7 States.