

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2413

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests from various States Governments regarding strengthening of fire services/equipment in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such requests received and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any recommendations from the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) with regard to fire safety in Government/private buildings, and in temporary structures, pandals etc. erected for holding functions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union and the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 'Fire Services' has been included as a municipal function in the XIth schedule to the Constitution of India in terms of Article 243-W. As such it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to ensure Strengthening of Fire & Emergency Services in their respective States.

However, based on the proposals received for various State Governments regarding Strengthening of Fire Services in their respective States, the XIIIth Finance Commission recommended an allocation of Rs. 472 crore to the seven States namely Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 17 crore), Haryana (100 Crore), Mizoram (Rs. 20 crore), Odisha (Rs. 150 crore), Tripura (Rs. 15 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 20 crore) and West Bengal (Rs. 150 crore) for Strengthening of Fire & Emergency Services. The Government of India has already released first instalment of the grant for Rs. 124.39 crore to the above mentioned seven States.

(c) & (d): Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is an organization for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods. There are standards on the fire fighting/rescue equipments, codes and practices on fire safety in various occupancies/industries including temporary structures and pandals used for functions. National Building code of India is one of such document on the subject which also covers fire safety in detail and the State Governments are expected to adopt the same in their local building bye-laws. Fire being a State subject, it is up to the State Government to raise and equip the fire services and enforce the fire safety codes and practices framed by the Bureau of Indian Standards to save life and property.