

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3483
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
MODERNISATION OF FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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 so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has drawn up a plan/is implementing schemes, for modernisation of fire services;
- (d) whether the Union Government has also received project reports from various State Governments on modernisation of fire services in the States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and
- (f) the total funds earmarked/utilised for modernisation of fire fighting services during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise along with the status of discussions with multilateral financial institutions for securing funds for the said project?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In the country, the Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs prescribes norms for Fire Service related matters. The norms for Fire Services recommended by the SFAC are advisory in nature. The norms are placed as Annexure-I. It is upto the State Governments to adopt these norms, as 'Fire Services' has been included as municipal function in the XII Schedule of the Constitution of India in terms of Article 243-W. It is, therefore, the primary responsibility of the State Governments to allocate sufficient resources for strengthening and equipping fire services in their jurisdiction.

(c): The Government of India has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at a cost of Rs.200 crore for Strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services in the country. 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 Vehicle and Combi Tools for Search & Rescue. The total funds earmarked for Strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services during each of the last 3 years and the current year, State-wise, is enclosed as Annexure-II.

Securing funds for the Scheme through multi-lateral financial institutions is not envisaged at this stage.

(d) to (e): Based on the proposals received from various State Governments regarding Strengthening of Fire Services in their respective States, the 13th Finance Commission recommended an allocation of Rs.472 crore to the 7 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh (Rs.17 crore), Haryana (Rs.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 and Emergency Services.

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

(f): Indicated in reply to (c) above.