

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5575  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015  
FIRE IN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS  
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the number of fire accidents in high rise buildings are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is lack of proper firefighting arrangements in the high rise buildings;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has held any consultation with the State Governments regarding `standard firefighting measures`; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the other effective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (d): The 'Fire Services' has been included as municipal function in the XIth Schedule of the Constitution of India in terms of Article 243 (W). It is, therefore, the primary responsibility of the State Governments to collect and compile the data related to fire accidents in high-rise buildings and also to allocate sufficient resources for strengthening and equipping fire services including fire fighting arrangements in the high-rise buildings in their respective jurisdiction.

(e) & (f): There are standards on fire fighting/rescue equipments and code of practices on fire safety in various occupancies/ industries including high rise buildings. The National Building Code of India, published by the Bureau of Indian Standard, covers fire protection, fire prevention and evacuation plans for the safety of occupants in high-rise buildings. The State Governments are expected to adopt these standards in their local building bye-laws. The Government of India has also constituted a Standing Fire Advisory Council. This Council recommends suitable measures to upgrade the standards of fire services which also include special equipments for fire-fighting and rescue in high-rise buildings.