

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660  
TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 18, 2023**

**FIRE SAFETY IN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS**

**NO. 1660. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:  
SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:  
SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:  
SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:  
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:  
SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:  
SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:  
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:  
SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:  
SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:  
SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU:**

**Will the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government is aware of numerous fire accidents in high rise buildings across the country;
- (b) if so, number of deaths due to fire accidents in residential and commercial buildings reported across the country, State-wise since 2020;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve fire safety in residential and commercial buildings; and
- (d) the criminal sanctions Government can impose, if any, on the builders/developers, if they fail to construct safe and reliable projects?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)**

(a) & (b): Fire service is a state subject and has been included as a Municipal function in the XII Schedule of the Constitution of India under Article 243 (W). It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary steps required for safety of life and property from fire hazards in residential and commercial buildings and high rise buildings in the area of their jurisdictions. No data related to fire incidences/ number of deaths due to fire accidents is maintained centrally by this Ministry.

(c): Director General (Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards) plays an advisory role through the Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC). Advisories are issued to all States/UTs from time to time to make necessary provisions in their respective Fire Service Acts/Rules to suitably incorporate the Fire Safety measures. So far as Central Government is concerned a Model Bill titled “Model Bill to Provide for the Maintenance of Fire and Emergency Service in the State” had been circulated to all the States/ Union Territories on 16.09.2019 for suitable revision in their respective Fire Service Rules/ Regulations on the basis of revised Model Bill. A “Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States” has been launched on 04.07.2023 for strengthening fire service in the States in the next five years (2021-22 to 2025-26). For guidance of States/UTs, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has also issued Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016 which contains a Chapter-11 on “Fire protection and Fire safety requirements” prescribing the norms and standards for fire protection.

(d): Fire service is a State subject and has been included as a Municipal function in the XII Schedule of the Constitution of India under Article 243 (W). States are having their respective Fire Safety Acts and Rules which may also include penalty provisions in case of violations in fire safety rules.

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