

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1092
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025**

FIRE SAFETY AUDITS IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

1092. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is need of regular fire safety audits in healthcare facilities;
- (b) if so, the efforts being made towards disaster preparedness and making health facilities more resilient towards fire incident considering the fact that hospitals operate with high-load equipment and highly inflammable materials; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken for capacity building of all cadres of personnel working in different types of health facilities at all levels of healthcare delivery system?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) Yes Sir, there is a need for regular fire safety audits in healthcare facilities. Regular audits help identify gaps, ensure compliance with safety norms, and enhance staff preparedness, while fostering a sense of safety among healthcare workers, patients and their families.

(b) and (c) 'Health' is a State subject. It is the primary responsibility of State/UTs to ensure adherence of safety norms including fire safety in healthcare facilities. However, the National Building Code (NBC) of India, 2016, outlines comprehensive fire safety requirements for all buildings.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has circulated communications, advisories and guidelines urging all States/UTs to undertake regular fire safety audits in healthcare facilities. This includes detailed guidelines on 'Fire and Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities' in 2020 calling for fire audits at regular intervals to ensure proper functioning of fire prevention, alarm and fighting systems as well as auditing of capacity of electrical systems switchgear. This apart Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also call for strict adherence to the statutory fire safety norms.

In recent past, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued advisories, checklists to all States/UTs on the issue of fire safety in hospitals highlighting the need for review and updation

of fire prevention and response plans of all health facilities and training all healthcare staff on fire safety protocols, evacuation procedures, and use of fire - fighting equipment.

To further enhance awareness on the issue of fire safety in all healthcare facilities, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in April, 2025 also organized a pan-India Fire Safety Week, during which all health facilities were urged to undertake regular fire audits, undertake mock drills on fire safety and patient evacuation etc.

For ease of accessibility and continuous upskilling, an online course module titled 'Fire Safety in Healthcare Facilities' has been launched on Government of India's iGOT Karmayogi open platform, accessible to all, so that it may be utilized to rapidly scale up awareness of all cadres of healthcare workers and other auxiliary staff for prevention, preparedness against and response to fire incidents both in public and private sector.

This apart, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under its Central Sector Scheme "Health Sector Disaster Preparedness Programme" also undertakes capacity building of hospital administrators on hospital disasters including prevention and management of fire incidents.
