

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2751**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2023/ AGRAHAYANA 28, 1945
(SAKA)**

FIRE ACCIDENTS IN BUILDINGS

2751. SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of numerous fire accidents in high-rise buildings across the country;**
- (b) if so, the number of deaths due to fire accidents in residential and commercial buildings reported across the country, State-wise since 2019;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve fire safety in residential and commercial buildings; and**
- (d) the details of other sanctions along with criminal sanctions, if any, the Government proposes to impose on the builders/developers if they fail to construct safe and reliable projects?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (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). It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary steps required for safety of life and property from fire hazards in the area of their jurisdiction. The Central Government does not maintain any data related to fire accidents/incidents in States centrally.

Effective enforcement of Bye Laws / Rules of States Governments / UT Administration is in the domain of respective States / UTs.

Directorate General (Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards), Ministry of Home Affairs, plays an advisory role through the Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC). Advisories are issued to all States/UTs from time to time to suitably incorporate the fire safety measures in their respective Fire Service Acts/Rules.

The Model Building Bye Laws, 2016, was issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for guiding the States / UTs, which contains a Chapter-11 on “Fire protection and fire safety requirements” prescribing the norms and standards for fire protection.

Central Government has also circulated a “Model Bill to Provide for the Maintenance of Fire and Emergency Service for the State” to all the States/UTs on 16.09.2019 for suitable revision in their respective Fire Service Rules / Regulations.

Central Government has also launched a scheme for “Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States” on 04.07.2023 for strengthening fire services at State level, with an outlay of Rs. 5000 Crore as Central Share.
