

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3986**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2025/ CHAITRA 4, 1947 (SAKA)

FIRE STATIONS

3986. SMT. SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of fire stations and disaster response units operational in Odisha;**
- (b) the details of new fire stations sanctioned and operationalized in Odisha during the last three financial years;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade firefighting equipment and recruit additional personnel in Odisha; and**
- (d) the details of collaboration between National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and local authorities in handling fire and disaster incidents?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (d) Fire Services 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 measures for strengthening and equipping Fire Services in the area of their jurisdiction.

It is completely under the purview of the State Government to establish new fire stations, upgrade firefighting equipment and to recruit additional Fire Service Personnel as per their need and requirement. As per the information made available by the State Government, at present there are 346 Fire Stations in the State of Odisha.

Recognizing the need for expansion and modernization of fire services in the States, Fifteenth Finance Commission recommended a provision of Rs.5000 crore for strengthening the fire services at a state level. The Central Government has launched a “Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States” on 04.07.2023 from the Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under the National Disaster Response Fund for strengthening fire services in the States with a total Central outlay of Rs. 5,000 Crore. The detailed scheme is available at <https://www.mha.gov.in/en/commoncontent/policies-guidelines>.

Under the Scheme, the States are permitted to undertake following activities in order to strengthen the fire services: -

- (i) Expansion of Fire Services by setting up of new fire stations, strengthening of state training centres and capacity building of the firefighter, volunteers and community in fire prevention measures,**

awareness programme etc. 35% of the fund has been allocated for this activity, out of which 5% is for capacity building.

- (ii) **Modernization of fire services by procuring modern firefighting equipment and strengthening of state headquarters and urban fire stations. The equipment to be purchased includes hydraulic platform, turntable ladders among others as given in the indicative list circulated to the States along with the Scheme guidelines dated 4th July, 2023. 50% of the fund has been allocated for modernization of fire services.**
- (iii) **Provision has also been made for any State specific demand under which not only the states can raise their demand to top-up their respective ongoing projects requiring additional financial assistance, but also flexibility has been given to them to meet the states specific requirements. 15% of the fund has been allocated for State specific demand.**
- (iv) **Out of the total allocated fund of Rs.5000 crore under the Scheme, an amount of Rs.500 crore has also been kept for incentivizing the States on the basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.**

Under the scheme, Central Government has approved the project for expansion and modernization of fire services in the State of Odisha with a total financial outlay of Rs. 200.38 Crore, out of which Rs. 150.29 is the Central Share from National Disaster Response Fund. Further, an amount of Rs. 45.09 Crore has been released under the scheme to the State as 1st Installment. The approved project envisages setting up of 10 new fire stations in Odisha as well as strengthening of fire services in the States.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) works in collaboration with State Disaster Management Authority for response during disasters. One Battalion of NDRF is located in Odisha at Mundali. During the last five years, 129 response operations, including during the recent cyclones, have been undertaken by NDRF in collaboration with State Disaster Response Force. During the period NDRF has conducted 18 Mock Exercise and 63 Familiarization Exercise. State Fire Department is taking the assistance of NDRF for training of Odisha fire service personnel in disaster response.
