

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Condition of Fire Services in India at the end of the Second World War

The development of Fire Services in India was to a large extent influenced by India's political and historical association with Britain till the Second World War (1939-1945).

2. At the out-break of war in 1939, there were innumerable Fire authorities in Britain which were heterogenous and ill-equipped to function as a National Force-so vital for the war effort. A hurried attempt was made to fuse them into an integrated National Organisation-the National Fire Service-which, inspite of all handicaps, did commendable work and helped to maintain the British morale at a high pitch throughout the duration of war. After the war was over, the responsibility for the administration of the Fire Services reverted to the Local Bodies because of a promise made by the Home Secretary at the time of constituting the National Fire Service. The lessons learnt during the war were, however, not wasted. The number of Fire authorities was drastically reduced, making each a viable one, and the British Home Office established an Inspectorate of Fire Services, evidently with a view to ensure standardisation of equipment, brigade procedures, uniform, ranks and training and to ensure better co-ordination and co-operation among them.

### The Expert Committee, 1950, Recommendations of - and Government of India's decision thereon

3. India did not have a National Fire Service during the war. In consequence, the Fire Brigades retained their heterogenous character and the majority of them continued to remain ill-equipped at the end of the war. They had an added handicap of having to depend entirely upon imported equipment. The Government of India were fully conscious of this and were keen to bring about all possible improvement. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, therefore set up an "Expert Committee" in 1950. Main recommendations of that Committee are given at Appendix - 1 'A' to this Compendium.
4. This was a good beginning indeed. The Government of India communicated their decision on the recommendation of the Expert Committee to all State Governments and Central Ministries vide Ministry of Home Affairs letter No. 33/50-CD, dated the 5th January, 1952. They accepted the recommendations at Serial Nos. 1, 2 and 6 to 10 in full and deferred their decision on recommendations at Serial Numbers 11 and 12, given at Appendix 1 'A'. Their observation on other recommendations of the Expert Committee were:-

- "3. The Government of India note that practically all State Governments are agreed on the point that provincialisation of Fire Services is sound in principle and should be the ultimate goal. The Government of India, however, feel that the administration of Fire Services is part of the responsibilities of Local Bodies, and a departure from the normal principle of decentralisation of responsibilities and duties would be justified in a matter of this nature only where Municipal authorities are found to be unable, inspite of every reasonable effort, to provide fire fighting facilities on a scale which the State Government consider necessary and are in a position to provide themselves. If State Govts. have the authority to enforce the recruitment by Local Bodies of only trained personnel (e.g. persons trained at the proposed Central Institution) and also have the power of inspection, then efficiency can be increased even without provincialisation of Fire Services.

The Government of India also accept in principle the recommendation of the Expert Committee that there should be an uniform Fire Legislation in all States (subject to such modifications as local circumstances may require). For this purpose they proposed to draw up a Model Bill in due course and obtain the views of the State Governments before it is given final shape. When finalised, copies of the Bill will be circulated to all State Governments with the recommendations to have the measure enacted by their respective Legislatures.

- "4. The Government of India accept this recommendation except as regards the formation of an All India Fire Service, as they feel that apart from other difficulties, the cadre would be too small to function efficiently.
- "5. While the Government of India are unable to accept this recommendation of the Expert Committee, they feel that State Governments should make arrangements for the regular inspection of the fire

fighting organisations within their States so as to ensure the maintenance of satisfactory standards. The Government of India on their part will also take steps in due course to give suitable advice and suggest standards in this regard.

- "13 The Government of India agree in principle that the provincialised Fire Services, where they exist, should work directly under Government (whether in the Home or the L.S.G. Department) and not under the Inspector General of Police."
5. While communicating their decisions, the Government of India also requested the State Governments to take suitable steps to give effect to the recommendations.
  6. The selection of a suitable site for the setting up of necessary facilities for the central training institution, procurement of necessary equipment and training aids, appointment of instructors and other staff and preparation of the basic training material took some time. Finally, the institution started functioning in July, 1956 at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, under the name of "The National Fire Service College". It was later shifted to its present site at Nagpur, in Maharashtra, in June, 1957.

#### **The Conference of the Chiefs of Fire Services in India, 1955**

7. The Government of India watched the progress of the implementation of the Expert Committee's recommendations by the State Governments for three years. But, unfortunately, not much progress appeared to have been made. They, therefore, convened a conference of the Chiefs of Fire Services in India in August, 1955 at New Delhi. A list of the participants who attended the conference is given at Appendix I-B. After the conference had been inaugurated by Shri B.N. Datar, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Shri L.G. Mirchandani, Officer on Special Duty, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, was unanimously elected the Chairman, Late Shri M.G. Pradhan, who was then the Commandant designate of the National Fire Service College also attended the conference. Main recommendations of the conference are given at Appendix 'I-C'. These were implemented to the extent indicated below:

#### **The Constitution of the Standing Fire Advisory Committee**

- "1 The Government of India constituted a Standing Fire Advisory Committee in 1955. The objects and scope of the Committee's work are given at Appendix '2-A'.

#### **The Constitution of the Design & Development Committee.**

2. The Government of India constituted a Design and Development Committee in 1955. This Committee was dissolved when the Indian Standards Institution took over the work of standardisation and preparation of Specifications in its entirety.
3. The syllabi for various courses at the National Fire Service College were adopted. The State Fire Schools have not yet fully developed.
4. The Drill Manual was published in 1963, after being examined and approved by the Standing Fire Advisory Committee.
5. An ad-hoc Committee was constituted for the setting up of an Fire Research Station in India. The Station has now started functioning as a part of the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee.
6. Recommendation of the conference regarding developing a healthy convention for encouraging consultation with local Fire Services by all Central, State and Local authorities responsible for the licensing of storage of flammable and other hazardous goods and licensing of factories was conveyed to all State Governments and Central Ministries.
7. Necessary amendments to Factories Act were recommended by the Standing Fire Advisory Committee vide minutes of their fifth meeting held at New Delhi from 5th to 8th August, 1958.
8. The Standing Fire Advisory Committee have prepared the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the Institution of Fire Engineers (India) and the Institution is expected to be established during 1970.
9. The National Fire Service College has commenced publication of a six monthly Journal, entitled "Fire

Technology India", from January, 1969.

10. All Central Ministries and State governments were requested to supply information for the purpose of Fire Statistics on the proformas recommended by the Conference."
8. The Standing Fire Advisory Committee/Council has held 28th Meeting so far and has made several important recommendations for bringing about uniformity and improvement in the Fire Services in India. The recommendations are compiled here in the following pages.
9. For the efficiency of the Fire Services, it is essential that several factors, which are inextricably mixed up and dependent on one another, are considered and provided for. It is, therefore, more logical to compile these recommendations under various heads rather than in the chronological order. Other reasons for this arrangement are:-
  - (a) Consideration of certain aspects of Fire Service Organisation was carried forward from one meeting to another.
  - (b) The Committee's/Council's recommendations are constantly under review and are revised if the changed circumstances warrant it. This arrangement enables the compendium to be printed in the loose-leaf Form. Any revision of the Committee's/Council's recommendation(s), therefore, does not necessitate the reprinting of the complete volume.
  - (c) New recommendations of the Committee/Council can be added to the compendium easily and it can be kept up-to-date without the need for reprinting.



## **2. STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

1. The Standing Fire Advisory Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendation of the Conference of Chiefs of Fire Services in India in 1955 (See Appendices '1-C' and '2-A' to this compendium). The constitution was revised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the membership of the Committee enlarged, to include all State Governments' representatives and representatives of all Union Territories and other Central Ministries. With the appointment of a Fire-Adviser in the Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 1968, he was nominated as the Member Secretary of the Committee.

### **Co-option**

2. At the first meeting of the Committee, the members decided to include the Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade in the list of members of the Committee.
3. At the second meeting, the members unanimously proposed to include Syed Sayeed Hassan, State Fire Force Commander, Hyderabad, as a full member of the Committee.

**References :** 1. Page 11 of the minutes of the first meeting of Standing Fire Advisory Committee.  
2. Pages 19 and 20 of the minutes of the second meeting of the Standing Fire Advisory Committee.

### **Venue of Meetings**

4. At the second meeting, the Committee resolved that future meetings of the Committee should be held in rotation at important Fire Service Centres, such as Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Calcutta, Allahabad & Delhi.

**Reference :** Page 19 of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Conducting of S.F.A.C. Meeting Every year in the Month of Feb.**

5. It was decided at the 28th meeting that S.F.A.C. meeting should be held in the third week of February on Wednesday and Thursday every year.

**Reference :** Item No.16 of the minutes of 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - page No.5.

### **Government of India's Views on SFAC's Recommendations**

6. While discussing the item on "Ranks and Badges for Fire Services" at the fourth meeting it was observed that "while the minutes of the S.F.A.C. meetings are circulated to State Governments, a clear indication may kindly be given by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the State Governments as to which of these recommendations have been accepted by them to enable the State Govt. to implement them. The committee desires that this may kindly be done in future by the Ministry of Home Affairs and for the past three meetings, similar action, if not already taken, may kindly be taken.
7. This matter again came up for discussion at the eighth meeting of the Committee when it was reiterated by the members that it would be advisable that specific views were given by the Ministry of Home Affairs on each item as recommended by the Standing Fire Advisory Committee.

**References :** 1. Page 4 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.  
2. Page 6 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Full Time Secretary**

8. At the fifth meeting, the Committee unanimously requested that the Ministry of Home Affairs might consider appointment of a full time Secretary to the Committee, preferably from among the staff of the Ministry, who was conversant with that work and who would also be able to look after the entire work connected with the meetings.

**Reference :** Page 9 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Procedure for Working-parties and Sub-Committees**

9. The Standing Fire Advisory Committee are empowered to appoint sub-committees and working parties in connection with the work of the committees. The need for adopting a procedure for the conduct of business of the working parties and sub-committees was felt and the Chairman gave the following instructions in this respect at the tenth meeting :-

"When we appoint working parties or sub-committees for certain items, we appoint a Convenor and it would be the Convenor's responsibility during the interim period to get all the paper work done and circulated to all members of the working party or the sub-committee. The views of the members of the working party or sub-committee would then be communicated to the Convenor, who would furnish the final report to the Secretary for being placed on the agenda for consideration of members and to take a decision".

Reference : Page 6 of the minutes of the tenth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Appointment of Alternate Members**

10. The question of appointment of alternate members of the Standing Fire Advisory Committee, on the lines of the Indian Standards Institution Committee, was discussed at the twelfth meeting.
11. The members did not favour the appointment of alternate members. It was agreed that it should be left to the discretion of the Chairman to accept an alternate if a member was unable to attend the meeting of the Committee owing to unavoidable circumstances.

Reference : Page 12 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Compendium of Recommendations of S.F.A.C.**

12. It was decided at the eleventh meeting to compile all important decisions taken at different sittings of the Committee in the past and recommendations made to and accepted by the Government of India with proper index.
13. It was again taken up at the twelfth meeting, when it was agreed that the compendium of decisions taken in previous meeting should be compiled expeditiously.
14. This compendium is the result of the above decisions.

References : 1. Page 10 of the minutes of the eleventh meeting of S.F.A.C.  
2. Page 12 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.

15. A Compendium of recommendations made by the S.F.A.C. up to its 13th meeting was prepared and circulated to all members. It was considered at the 14th meeting when it was decided that members would send their suggestions for modification of the compendium, if any, to the Secretary to the Committee latest by 1st November, 1970. If no communication was received from any members by that date, it would be presumed there were no comments and the printing of the compendium would be processed further.

Reference : Page 11 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S. F.A.C.

#### **Updating of the Compendium of Recommendations of S.F.A.G.**

16. The Council recommended at the 25th meeting that the compendium of recommendations should be brought upto-date as early as possible.

Reference : Page 6 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.

Note : The compendium has now been updated up to and including the 28th meeting.

#### **Preparation of National Fire Codes.**

17. The committee recommended at the 14th meeting that the Indian Standards Institution may be asked to consider preparation of National Fire Codes as early as possible.
18. The matter was again brought up at the 16th meeting of the Committee. The Committee was of the view that it

was not necessary for the Indian Standards Institution (I.S.I.) to wait for all the specifications and codes of practice to be completed before undertaking the compilation of "National Fire Codes". A beginning could be made by the I.S.I. immediately with the available material and more volumes could be added as and when additional material became available. It was decided that these views of the Committee should be communicated to the I.S.I.

19. At the 23rd meeting, the representative of I.S.I. brought up the question of providing funds for payment of honorarium for preparation of National Fire Codes by the I.S.I. and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Council decided that in view of the fact that the work was highly desirable in national interest, the matter may be put up to the concerned authorities for provision of necessary funds for the project.
20. 'Formulation of National Fire Codes' was again considered at the 24th meeting. After assessing the various possibilities, the Chairman directed that relevant portions pertaining to fire prevention and fire safety, occurring presently in various Acts and Regulations, should be compiled into one document to assist the fire services in their work connected with inspection and licensing. He further directed that this work may be entrusted to the National Fire Service College.

- References:**
1. Page 12 of the minutes of the 14th Meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Pages 14 and 15 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S.F.A.C
  3. Page 8 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.
  4. Page 14 of the minutes of the 24th meeting of S.F.A.C.

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### 3. STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. The Standing Fire Advisory Committee was renamed Standing Fire Advisory Council in the year 1980  
**Reference** : F.No. VI-14022/1/78-DGCD(F), dated the 22nd February, 1980.
2. The Constitution of the Standing Fire Advisory Council was decided as given at Appendix '3-A' to this Compendium

#### **Formation of standing Sub-Committees under the Standing Fire Council.**

3. To facilitate detailed consideration of various items coming up before the Council for advice, five Standing Sub-Committees were constituted at the 22nd meeting. The various Sub-Committees, their responsibilities and composition are given at Appendix '3-B' to this compendium.  
**Reference** : Page 7-10 of the minutes of the 22nd meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Reconstitution of the Standing Fire Advisory Council**

4. The Council recommended at the 25th meeting that the Standing Fire Advisory Council may be reconstituted with an independent Director General of Fire Services as its head on the lines of the Chief Inspectorate of Fire Services in the United Kingdom and the Director General, Fire Services should be of the rank of Additional Secretary to Govt. of India. The Council recommended that this proposal (recommendation) may be put up to the Govt. at the earliest.  
**Reference** : Page 6 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Formation of National Council on Fire Prevention and Fire-Fighting (National Fire Council)**

5. The subject came up for discussion at the 14th meeting. The Committee recommended that the proposal to form a National Fire Council may be deferred for some time. Instead, the scope of the SFAC may be expanded to include fire safety and fire insurance as well. In the meantime a more detailed study as regard the constitution, contribution and functions of the National Fire Council and its ability to coordinate the work of the various Council bodies dealing with matters relating to fire-fighting may be undertaken at the Ministry level.  
**Reference** : Pages 17 and 42 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.



## 4. PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

### Grant-in-Aid for Developing Fire Service Organisation

1. The Committee recommended at the second meeting that such cities and towns which had a population of two lakhs and over should be given priority for development of fire-fighting services and preference should be given to the cities which had industrial establishments of National importance.
2. A special meeting of the committee was convened in October, 1959 to consider the sanction of grant-in-aid to State Governments for improvement of their Fire Services, as also for necessary assessment of the requirements of the State Governments in fire-fighting equipment.
3. At that meeting, the members expressed the views that the existing grouping of towns in respect of fire-fighting requirements should be revised, because these were based largely on the population, and it would be more realistic if other major considerations, like susceptibility to fire risk, etc., were also considered. A revised gradation of towns in different groups was therefore recommended as given below:-

#### Group I

This should include towns having important areas essential from the point of view of Civil emergency and where high fire risks exist, and which have been specifically earmarked for fire protection by the Government of India. These are as given in APPENDIX 4-A to this Compendium.

#### Group II

This should include towns of very high fire risk and industrial areas, which are subjected to serious fire risks. These are as given in APPENDIX 4-A to this Compendium.

#### Group III

Such towns of high fire risks where Fire Services need expansion or provision of fire-fighting equipment is essential. These are as given in APPENDIX 4-A to this Compendium.

4. It was also decided that each of the groups may be divided into two sub-groups. Sub-group (i) should be of such towns where fire-fighting facilities already exist and required to be expanded and improved. Sub-group (ii) should be of such towns where no fire-fighting services are available and there is a need for such Fire Services and for which the State Governments should take necessary steps.
5. The Committee recommended at the eleventh meeting that grant-in-aid given to State Governments for the improvement of Fire Services in their States should be carried over to the next year because of the difficulty in the procurement of equipment.
6. The Chairman Standing Fire Advisory Committee, stressed at the twelfth meeting that major fire appliances, already supplied on a poolable expenditure basis for Civil Defence towns were not to be diverted to other places.
7. At the thirteenth meeting, the members stressed that Central subsidy, both for Civil Defence and non-Civil Defence towns, should be given to the maximum possible extent.

- References :**
1. Page 9 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Pages 3 and 4 of the minutes of the special meeting of S.F.A.C.
  3. Page 7 of the minutes of the ninth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  4. Page 14 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  5. Page 5 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of S.F.A.C.

8. The following proposals for improving the fire services were considered at the 13th meeting :-
  - (i) Fire brigades of cities with population of more than 75,000 may be taken over by Government or Police Authorities.
  - (ii) Fire & Rescue services should be mandatory in Cat-I and II Civil Defence towns, and
  - (iii) Steps should be taken to establish an agency to exercise centralised command to control and supervise fire brigades located in various important Civil Defence towns in order to achieve mutual aid within town and to establish organised set-up of high standard of functional efficiency as required in emergency.



9. It was generally felt that if all State Govts./Union Territories administrations could be persuaded to provincialise their fire services, preferably separate from their Police Forces with appropriate legislation of the Fire Services Act on the lines of the Model Fire Force Act, circulated in October, 1958, all the difficulties would be overcome. By provincialisation there would be one large fire service per State/Union Territory with resultant better avenues of promotion, training and efficiency. In this matter, the Centre could not dictate, but only advice. Members were of the opinion that all Category-I & II Civil Defence towns must have up to scale fire services, and as it was an obligatory function to provide the fire protection under the State Municipal Act, it was for the State Governments to ensure that their Municipalities fulfilled this function effectively. In this context, the Committee felt that it was necessary that every State should have a Fire Adviser or a State Fire Chief with authority to inspect and direct all fire services thereof.

**Reference :** Pages 6 & 7 of the minutes of 13th meeting of S.F.A.C.

10. It was decided to recommend to Govt. of India after examining and analysing the data involving Insurance Claims received from the Members that the State Fire Service Deptt. should be given grant-in-aid instead of loan by the GIC for development of fire services.

**Reference :** Item No.6 of the minutes of 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - Page No.3

## 5. LEGISLATION

1. One of the recommendation of the Expert Committee (1950) was the re-organisation of Fire services in States and the promulgation of an uniform Fire Service Legislation for all States. This involved provincialisation of Fire Services as State Fire Services and drafting of legislation containing provisions indicated by that -Committee in their report (see Appendix '1-A').
2. While intimating their decision to the Central Ministries and State Governments on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, vide their letter No. 33/50-CD, dated the 5th January, 1952, the Government of India had accepted in principle that there should be an uniform Fire Service legislation in all States, subject to such modifications as local circumstances may require. They had also proposed to draw up a model bill in due course and obtain the views of the State Governments before finalising it. They had also stated in their letter that copies of the model bill would be circulated to all State Governments with the recommendation to have the measure enacted by their respective Legislature.

### Model Fire Force Bill

3. A model bill was drawn up in consultation with the Law Ministry and was examined and finalised by the Standing Fire Advisory Committee, after the State Governments had been consulted, at the third meeting held at New Delhi from the 16th to 20th October, 1956. The finalised draft model bill was circulated to all Central Ministries and State Governments vide Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs letter No' 28/3/56-ER-II, dated the 17th October, 1958 and again considered at the fourth meeting. A copy of the model bill is given at Appendix "5-A".
4. Appropriate provisions regarding the levy of Fire tax have been included in the model bill, on the lines recommended by the Committee at the second meeting.
5. The question of including in the model bill provisions regarding concessions to Fire Service vehicles proceeding to calls, such as right of way, non-compliance with speed limits and observance of certain traffic rules, was considered at the fourth meeting and it was recommended that if those concessions could not be brought under the Bill, those should be considered for inclusion in the Motor Vehicles Act (Traffic Regulations). At the same meeting, it was also decided to delete the word "responsibility" from Section 7, clause 3 of Chapter II of the model fire services bill, as also to make certain other changes. Those have been incorporated in the Draft Model Bill given at Appendix "5-A".
6. At the eleventh meeting, the Committee felt that the time had come when the Fire Services should be independent organisations, directly under the Government and steps should be taken in that connection at such places where that plan had not been implemented. They reiterated their earlier suggestion that State Governments should be requested to accept the principle of having the Fire Services under State Control, especially in view of the emergency when the Fire Services would have to play vital role.
7. This was reviewed at the twelfth meeting when the chairman stressed the need for State Governments taking over their Fire Services. He further pointed out that with the lifting of the Emergency, the Defence of India Rules, under which certain States had taken over their Fire Services, would be held in abeyance for six months thereafter. Therefore, if those States wished to retain their Fire Services under State control, they would have to enact State Legislation on the lines of the model bill already circulated.
8. Once again, the question of State Control of Fire Services came up for discussion at the thirteenth meeting of the Committee, it was generally felt that if all States/Union Territory Governments could be persuaded to provincialise their Fire Services, preferably separate from the Police Force, with appropriate legislation of the Fire services Bill on the lines of the draft circulated in October, 1958, all the difficulties could be overcome. Members were of the opinion that all Civil Defence Category I and II towns must have (upto) State Fire Services and, as it was an obligatory function to provide fire protection under the State Municipal Act, it was for the State Government to ensure that their municipalities fulfilled that function effectively. In that context, the Committee felt that it was necessary that every State should have a Fire Adviser or a State Fire Chief with authority to inspect and direct all Fire Services therein.

- References :**
1. Appendix '1-A' to this Compendium.
  2. Page 7 of the minutes of the first meeting of S.F.A.C.
  3. Page 1 of this Compendium.

4. Page 9 of the minutes of the second meeting
  5. Page 4 of the minutes of the third meeting of SFAC
  6. Pages 5 and 6 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of SFAC
  7. Page 5 of the minutes of the eleventh meeting of SFAC.
  8. Page 13 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of SFAC.
  9. Page 6 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of SFAC.
9. The topic of 'State Control of Fire Services' was again considered at the 14th meeting. The Committee was of the view that it should be recommended to the State Governments that if immediate switch over to State Control was not practicable for any reason, at least the fire services in the Civil Defence towns should be taken over by the State Governments concerned.  
**Reference :** Page 6 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.
  10. The question of enactment of the Fire Force Bill by all states with a view to ensure quick development of fire service and some degree of uniformity throughout the country was repeatedly brought up at various meetings of the Committee/Council. At the 23rd meeting, it was once again recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs should issue a circular letter to all State Governments on this subject and its importance.  
**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.
  11. Once again the Chairman emphasised the importance of enactment of the Fire Force Bill at the 24th meeting and called upon those members in whose State, the Bill was yet to be enacted to persuade their respective Governments to get the enactment done expeditiously.  
**Reference :** Page 13 of the minutes of the 24th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Delinking the State Fire Service Administration from the Control of the Police**

12. This subject was discussed at the 25th meeting. The Chairman pointed out that the State Governments were advised way back in 1952, followed by reminders, that the Fire Services, when taken over by the State Governments, should be headed by professionals, directly under the State Government and not under the Inspector General of Police. The State Governments may, therefore, take appropriate action in the matter. The question of replacing a Police Officer as the Fire Chief by an IAS Officer did not find favour with the Council.  
**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.
13. The question of professionals heading the fire service depts. in the State/UT was again discussed at the 28th meeting. It was pointed out by the Members that the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised on the subject way back in 1952. The Chairman again remind the Members i.e. the Model Fire Force Bill was adopted, this problem automatically got solved.  
**Reference :** Item No. 4 of the minutes of the 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - Page No.3.

#### **Consolidation of State Fire Service**

14. This subject was discussed at the 25th meeting. The desirability of a regular and uniform fire service throughout each State/Union Territory was accepted. The Council was of the opinion that no worthwhile progress of any State/UT Fire Services would be achieved till the entire fire services were brought under a single Fire Chief in a State. For this purpose, the prerequisite was the adoption of the Model Fire Force Act by all States/UTs. All States/UTs/Fire Chiefs were requested to confer to the Model Fire Force Act as expeditiously as possible.  
**Reference :** Page 11 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.
15. The question of adoption of the Model Fire Force Act by States/Union Territories was again raised at the 26th meeting Heads of respective. Fire Services of States which had not yet enacted it were asked to pursue the matter with their respective State Governments as necessary.  
**Reference :** Page 1 of the minutes of the 26th meeting of S.F.A.C.
16. At the 28th meeting, it was once again emphasized by the Chairman, S.F.A.C. that all Members may take up the matter of enacting Model. Fire Force Bill by their respective State Governments as expeditiously as possible.  
**Reference :** Item no.2 of the minutes of the 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - page No.2.



### **Adoption of Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act for Fire Safety of Buildings**

17. This subject was discussed at the 26th meeting of the Council. Members were of the view that legislation for enforcing fire safety in buildings would go a long way in saving precious lives and property. They were advised to take up the matter with their respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for adopting recommendations of the National Building Code issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards and extending the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act to their States/Union Territories. Copies of the Act and Rules would be sent to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations by the Fire Adviser, M.H.A.

**Reference :** Page 1 of the minutes of the 26th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Draft Model Fire Force Bill**

18. The Model Fire Force Bill provides for the formulation of rules under it. The preparation of those rules was therefore taken up by the Committee at the seventh meeting and a working party was appointed. The draft prepared by them was considered and approved by the Committee at the eighth meeting. A copy of the finalised draft is given at Appendix '5-B'.

**References :** 1. Pages 15 and 16 of the minutes of the seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.  
2. Page 8 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Draft Discipline Code**

19. The Draft Discipline Code for the Fire Services was first discussed at the fourth meeting and it was decided to study the existing codes in different Fire Services before finalising it. A sub-committee was appointed to examine the case at the seventh meeting and the revised draft prepared by them was accepted by the Committee. While recommending the adoption of the Discipline Code, the Committee stressed the fact that whereas the Code was framed to bring about greater degree of uniformity, the State Governments could make such changes as would suit local circumstances. A copy of the finalised draft is given at Appendix "5-C".

**References :** 1. Pages 8 and 9 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.  
2. Page 6 of the minutes of the seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.  
3. Page 2 of the minutes of the ninth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Rules for Provision of Fire Fighting Equipment in Industrial Establishments.**

20. Draft rules for the provision of fire fighting equipment in Industrial Establishments, prepared by the Ministry of Labour under Sub-section 7 of section 38 of the Indian Factories Act, were considered at the fifth meeting and finalised after making certain modifications. A copy of the finalised draft is given at Appendix "5-D".
21. The members of the Committee desired that wherever local Fire Services were in existence, the advice of the Local Fire Officer might be sought.

**Reference :** Page 3 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Rules framed under Section 38(7) of the Factories Act**

22. On a reference from the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat that they were not able to adopt the Rules because of shortage of water supply. The Committee recommended that there should be no amendment to the Rules framed under the Factories Act and that the question of meeting the shortage of water supply might be examined and alternatives suggested, if necessary.

**Reference :** Page 23 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Provision of Fire Fighting Equipment under the Factories Act**

23. It was decided to recommend to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations that the Local Fire Officers should be consulted in as far as fire prevention/fire protection requirements in various factories under their jurisdiction were concerned. They should in turn keep in view the Indian standard Codes of practice for fire safety while making their recommendations.

**Reference :** Page 6 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Model Rules for Provision of Fire Fighting Equipment under the Factories Act**

24. It was decided at the 17th meeting that the Director General, Factory Advice Service may be requested to frame Model Rules for provision of fire fighting equipment under the Factories Act and the Model Rules should be circulated to all State Governments for adoption after the Rules have been examined by the Standing Fire Advisory Council.

**Reference :** Page 4 of the minutes of the 17th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Review of Existing Legislation, such as the Petroleum Act, the Cinematography Act, the Factories Act, etc.**

25. It was suggested at the 17th meeting that the existing legislation, such as the Petroleum Act, the cinematograph Act, the Factories Act, etc. should be reviewed in so far as fire safety requirements were concerned and that the fire services should be consulted at the time of such review.

**Reference :** Page 4 of the minutes of the 17th meeting of S.F.A.C.

26. Review of the Cinematography Act had earlier been recommended at the 15th meeting also while considering an item on cinema inspection. The committee had then recommended that the Ministry of information and Broadcasting should be requested to undertake the review with a view to finding out if any further amendments in the Act were necessary.

**Reference :** Page 7 of the minutes of the 15th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Grants/Renewal of Cinema Licences**

27. It was decided to recommend to the State Govts., at the 16th meeting, that Local Fire Officer should be consulted at the time of grant/renewal of cinema licenses and that he should take into account the I.S. Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Cinema houses while advising the administration on the grant/renewal of licences. It was also decided to include other places of public entertainment and public assembly in these recommendations.

**Reference :** Page 4 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Hazardous Fire Crackers (Fire-Works) - Inspection under the Explosives Rules, 1940**

28. The problems created by the manufacture, storage and use of hazardous fire crackers were brought up for discussion at the 22nd meeting. It was decided that a circular letter should be issued to all State Governments for intensifying inspections with a view to minimising unauthorised manufacture, storage, etc. of crackers and also for examining whether there was any need for fresh state legislation in the matter, particularly with regard to making the penal provisions more stringent. Banning the hazardous crackers' was also be referred to the Chief Controller of Explosives for further action.

**Reference :** Page 20 of the minutes of the 22nd meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Inclusion of Subject Fire Protection and Control in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution**

29. The members express the view that unless the subject fire was included in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution the development of fire services in the country would remain disorganised and would not be able to meet the growing need of the country. The Chairman directed that after a study of the matter it should be recommended to Government of India that the Subject may be included in 7th Schedule of the Constitution.

**Reference :** Item No.5 of the minutes of the 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - page no.3.



## 6. EQUIPMENT (REQUIREMENTS)

### Yard Stick for Calculating the Number of Pumping Units for Towns

1. At the fourth meeting, while considering the scale of towing vehicles for trailer fire pumps, the Committee recommended that the number of pumping units required for a town should be calculated on the basis of population as given below :-

Population in Lakhs	No. of Pumping Units
Half a lakh	One
One lakh	Two
One and a half lakhs	Three
Two lakhs	Four
Two and half lakhs	Five
Three lakh	Six

2. From three lakhs upwards, there should be one additional pumping unit per lakh of population or a fraction thereof.
3. In addition to above, a reserve of 20% of the total pumping units, subject to a minimum of one, should also be provided.  
Note : A pumping unit means a self-propelled motor fire engine or a trailer fire pump, complete with towing vehicle, or a jeep fire engine.
4. The above scale should be made applicable only to cities and towns.
5. In industrial cities and areas of high fire risk, the scales and types of additional fire fighting appliances should be determined by an actual survey of the area to be protected.  
Reference : Pages 7 and 8 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.
6. At the fifth meeting, it was clarified that a pumping unit should have a capacity of approximately 500 gallons per minute.
7. It was further clarified at the same meeting that the Committee had not advised against the trailer fire pumps. The members, however, felt that self-propelled fire engines, like the jeep/land rover fire engines, were preferable to trailer fire pumps and towing vehicles. But, where trailer fire pumps were provided or had to be provided due to local conditions, the scale of towing vehicles recommended was 'one per trailer fire pump'. They further recommended that the number of towing vehicles could be reduced by carrying light/portable pumping units on the towing vehicle itself, in which case, it could also tow a trailer fire pump and could thus give two pumping units per towing vehicle. In such cases, necessary additional crew would also have to be carried on the towing vehicle for manning the light portable pumping units.  
Reference : Pages 2 and 3 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.
8. A further clarification was given by the Committee at the sixth meeting as follows:-  
"The recommendations made at the fourth and fifth meetings regarding the scale of pumping units apply only to number of such units maintained for the actual runs to fires and other calls and the scale as recommended would be applicable only to such of the units. Regarding units for use for purposes other than the above, the scale may vary according to local conditions as found necessary by the Local Fire Officer".  
Reference : Page 11 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### Rescue Vans

9. The Committee observed at the fifth meeting:-  
"The Indian Standards Institution have already prepared a specification for emergency tender which is in the stage of finalisation now. This specification includes the necessary specialised equipments to be carried for rescue purposes and the Committee considers that this should be quite suitable to serve as specification for rescue vans for the Fire Services.  
As regards the suitable scale of such vans for Fire Services, the Committee feels that there should be one



such rescue van for every place having a population of 3 lakhs to 10 lakhs while it should be augmented by additional rescue vans for every additional 10 lakhs. The Committee feels that apart from the attendance of rescue vans for such rescue calls, the regular Fire Engine with equipments can attend to supplement the service at such rescue calls. The above recommendation does not cover the requirements of special areas, like docks, mines, aerodromes, etc., which may require special equipment for such purposes".

**Reference :** Page 5 f the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Ladders**

10. The Committee recommended at the second meeting that 35 feet extension ladders should be provided in places where the buildings have a ground and two upper floors only, and that where there are more than two upper floors, 50-60 feet fire escapes and hook ladders should be used. They further recommended that the use of turn table ladders may be considered where the height of the buildings exceeds 60 feet.

**Reference :** Page 7 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Scale of Fire Fighting Equipments for Peace Time and Emergency Requirements**

11. This was considered at the fifth meeting. The members felt that the calculation of pumping units according to the population on the sliding scale, as recommended at the fourth meeting was satisfactory for peace time But, they further recommended that in assessing the additional pumping units necessary to cover special or high fire risk areas, the local Fire Officer should take into account the local conditions and situation which might have to be faced For example, in the matter of location of fire stations, the scale of one fire station per four square miles should be made flexible without any restriction on the local Fire officer to locate the fire stations at closer or greater distances, depending upon the topography, terrain, etc., of the locality, as well as the fire risk involved and the time taken to effectively cover such risk.
12. The Committee also recommended that requirements of pumping units in the event of emergency should be based on the type of emergency, according to which cities and towns might be classified as :-
  - (a) High vulnerability,
  - (b) Moderate vulnerability. and
  - (c) Low vulnerability.
13. The scale of pumping units during emergency as compared to those in peace time (P) should be in the following ratio.-  
 $P : C : B : A :: 1 :: 3 : 7$
14. The additional pumping units required in emergency might be trailer fire pumps although self-propelled fire engines were preferable. The towing vehicles required for trailer fire pumps at the rate of one each, might be made up by acquiring suitable vehicles and fitting those with towing attachment.
15. The difference between the peace time requirements and the requirements during the time of emergency for vulnerable areas, as per scales prescribed above should be made up progressively during peace time, upto 50 per cent of the total appliances and equipments in times of emergency.
16. The balance of the requirements in respect of the appliances and equipments should be stock piled by the Government.
17. The deficiency between the existing inadequate equipment and the peace time requirements as per scales recommended above should be made up immediately in respect of vulnerable areas by giving it the highest priority.

**Reference :** Pages 8 and 19 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Scales for Industrial Establishments**

18. Improvement of fire fighting arrangements in industrial establishments was considered at the second meeting of the Committee. The formula for the number of gallons of water required for such premises was recommended as given under "Water Supply" in this compendium. Based on that formula, the Committee recommended that the number of fire pumps required for the premises should be worked out as follows:-

"Less than 120 gallons per minutes	-	No power driven pump required. First aid fire appliances should be provided as recommended by the Local Fire Officer.
120 to 220 gallons per minute	-	One light trailer Fire pump required.
Over 200 gallons per minute	-	Two or more power driven pumps which will yield the required capacity.

In working out the number of pumps required, in the formula given above, the pumping capacity might be reduced -by 25 per cent in cases where outside aid from an established city or town. Fire Service is available within 5 minutes of the outbreak of fire. But, this should not reduce the total water storage capacity recommended for 100 minutes work.

The above formula does not apply to Defence and Civil Aviation installations whose requirements have to be considered on a different basis."

**Reference :** Pages 10 to 12 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.

19. While recommending the yard stick for calculating the number of pumping units for towns at the fourth meeting, the Committee observed that the scale recommended by them applied only to cities and towns and that for industrial undertakings where the area was such as could not be reached by manhauling of trailer fire pumps within reasonable time, vehicles with towing attachment should be provided at the scale of one for every four trailer fire pumps, with a minimum of one such vehicle, to be available at all times.
20. Again, while clarifying the definition of a pumping unit at the fifth meeting, the members observed that the scale recommended by them need not be applied to industrial undertakings where the area was such that the trailer fire pumps could be manhauling within the premises.

**References :**

1. Page 8 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.
2. Page 3 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.

## 7. EQUIPMENT (STANDARDISATION)

1. One of the task assigned to the Standing Fire Advisory Committee was to get the Fire Services equipment standardised through the agency of the Indian Standards Institution. The following action was taken by the Committee in this connection :-
  - (a) Shri P.N. Mehrotra was requested to draft specification for a small fire engine, suitable for rural fire fighting and for use in small towns, on the guidelines given to him by the Committee at the third meeting.
  - (b) The specification for the small fire engine, as prepared by Shri Mehrotra, was modified and the draft was sent to the Indian Standards Institution after fourth meeting.
  - (c) The specification for the small fire engine, as drafted by the Indian Standards Institution, was approved with some modification at the sixth meeting.
  - (d) It was decided at the seventh meeting that as a standard had already been laid down by the Indian Standards Institution, it was not necessary to express the views of the Standing Fire Advisory Committee. They, however, felt that in view of the fact it was necessary to keep abreast of the latest development, etc. of fire fighting equipment, both indigenous and imported, a permanent sub-committee might be constituted to study that problem in all its aspects alongwith any other reference that might be made to them from time to time in respect of fire fighting equipment. S/Shri M.J.B. Maneckji, M.G. Pradhan, S.G. Vengsarkar, S.F. Lakhani, C.S. Chandrasekhra, P.N. Mehrotra and John Keshi were nominated on the Sub-Committee.
  - (e) At the seventh meeting, it was also proposed to reserve 'Poppy red' colour, shade 536 of IS : 5-1966, for the Fire Service appliances. The Chairman and Shri A.B. Advani were nominated to examine it further.
  - (f) The standardisation of fire floats and fire boats were considered at the seventh meeting. It was decided to prepare the draft specification which could later on be forwarded to the Indian Standards Institution for further processing.
  - (g) The special-meeting-of the Committee, convened at Delhi in October, 1959, recommended the setting up of a unit for the testing of indigenously manufactured equipment. It was unanimously felt by the members that, to obtain full value for the money spent for the purchase of equipment in the country, it was necessary that the Ministry of Home Affairs took early steps to set up an unit of that type. They felt that unless that was done proper progress could not be made in the manufacture of equipment and suggested very high priority to be given for that purpose.
  - (h) On the report of the Chairman and Shri Advani, the Committee decided to adopt 'Poppy red' as the colour for the fire appliances and to redesignate it as 'Fire-red' colour, at the eighth meeting.
  - (i) At the eighth meeting, the decision to prepare draft specification for fire floats and fire boats were reversed.
  - (j) At the eighth meeting, it was decided to forward the suggested modifications to draft specifications for extension ladders to the Indian Standards Institution on the basis of the report of the Chief Fire Officer, Bombay Fire Brigade
  - (k) At the ninth meeting, the Committee reiterated their earlier recommendations on the setting up of a testing unit for fire fighting equipment and appliances. They were also of the opinion that the location of that unit should be at a place other than at the National Fire Service College.
  - (l) At the tenth meeting, it was decided to advise the Indian Standards Institution to prepare standard specifications for the fire alarm systems, automatic as well as manually operated types, for all large industrial estates or establishments. It was felt that rules for the installation of such Fire alarm systems in Industrial establishment factories, etc., could only be laid down after the specifications were framed.
  - (m) The decision taken at the eleventh meeting were :-
    - (i) It was not necessary to produce portable Oxyacetylene cutting plant indigenously as the demand was very low.
    - (ii) It was not necessary to standardise the position of operation of fire extinguishers (upright or inverted).



- (iii) It was decided to have a colour code standardised for the fire extinguishers.
- (iv) The urgent need to establish a testing unit for the fire fighting equipment, especially at places like Mumbai, Calcutta and Delhi, where the major industries were located, was stressed.
- (n) The representatives of the Director General Supplies and Disposals who attended the twelfth meeting by special invitation saw no need for a testing unit as, according to them, their organization was already fully equipped to carry out all the required tests for items supplied through them.
- (o) The decisions taken at the thirteenth meeting were :-
  - (i) Use of metal as a material for Firemen's helmets should be prohibited in the Indian Standards. The shape of the sample helmet tabled at the meeting was suitable. The colour of the helmet should be inherent and yellow, except those for Officers, which should be white.
  - (ii) The Indian Standard on the Design and Construction of Fire Service Drill Towers should include a fourth type of drill tower in use at the National Fire Service College.
  - (iii) The capacity and design of water tenders (IS:948-1950 and IS:950-1959) should be improved.
  - (iv) A sub committee should examine the mode of operation (upright or invertible) of the Dry Powder Extinguisher.

**Note :** Recommendations of the Sub-Committee were examined at the 14th meeting. It was decided to accept the recommendations, viz. all extinguishers other than foam should be operated in an upright position. Only foam extinguishers may continue to be operated in the inverted position because of obvious difficulties in manufacturing such extinguishers with upright operating device. The Committee also recommended that, in order to distinguish foam extinguishers from other extinguishers, a diagram depicting the method of operation in an inverted position shall be transixed on every foam extinguisher in addition to painting it according to the Standard colour code.

- (v) Refills for all types of fire extinguishers should be standardised.
- (vi) Manufacturers should supply exploded drawings of all fast moving parts, showing part numbers of the components therein. Further, the parts supplied for the equipment must fit without any modification.
- (vii) Colour Code was useful for fire extinguishers. It should be left to the Indian Standards Institution to work out and finalise the details.
- (viii) There should be a Research and Development Organization between the manufacturer and the user with a view to improve the products of the industry. The Chairman was authorised to follow up the proposal with Government and get the Research Cell set up to carry out research and development of fire appliances in conjunction with the industry on one side and the National Laboratories, including Defence Research and Development establishments, on the other.
- (ix) The Directorate General Technical Development should look into the demand for the Breathing apparatus sets in the country and consider whether the items should be imported or manufactured (excluding partial manufacture) in India.
- (x) A special committee should be set up which could go round to assess the capabilities of the manufacturers. It was suggested that the industry should also form their own association to check unscrupulous elements.

- Reference :
1. Pages 9 and 10 of the minutes of the third meeting of SFAC.
  2. Page 8 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of SFAC.
  3. Page 5 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of SFAC.
  4. Page 12 and 15 to 17 of the minutes of the seventh meeting of SFAC.
  5. Page 5 of the minutes of the special meeting of SFAC.
  6. Pages 8, 9 and 11 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of SFAC.
  7. Page 4 of the minutes of the ninth meeting of SFAC.
  8. Page 9 of the minutes of the tenth meeting of SFAC.
  9. Page 8 and 10 of the minutes of the eleventh meeting of SFAC.
  10. Page 4 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of SFAC.
  11. Page 6 and 12 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of SFAC.
  12. Pages 2 to 6 and 8 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of SFAC (Additional items).

### **Indian Standards on Fire Fighting Equipment**

2. The Committee recommended at the 20th meeting that existing Indian Standard Specifications on fire fighting equipment should be revised to bring them in line with the Committee's recommendations on

"Organisational Structure of Fire Services" given at Appendix '30-D' to this Compendium.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 20th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Revision of Indian Standards on Fire Hose**

3. The Council recommended at the 23rd meeting that, in view of the difficulties experienced in the procurement of the correct type of fire hose, the following action should be taken:—
- (i) The Indian Standards Institution may be advised to formulate the specifications for hose in a manner so as to avoid confusion in the matter of procurement of hose by the fire services.
  - (ii) The Member-Secretary should advise all fire services in the country to use Type-II delivery hose in view of its definite operational advantages over the other type.
  - (iii) It may be recommended to the Indian standards Institution that the Panel for fire fighting hose should be transferred from the Sectional Committee PCDC 13 to the Sectional Committee B.D.C 22 because the items comes under fire fighting equipment.

**Reference :** Page 14 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Setting up of a National Testing and Approval Facility for Fire Fighting Equipments**

4. This subject was examined at the 24th meeting of the council. Members were of the opinion that, on account of the large number of sub-standard equipment now being manufactured, there is a need for setting up such facility at the National level, where a wide range of fire fighting equipment can be tested and evaluated. The member from the Loss Prevention Association (LPA) promised to approach the General Insurance Corporation (G.I.C.) for financial assistance. The chairman directed that it should be processed expeditiously.

**Reference :** Pages 17 and 18 of the minutes of the 24th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Provision of sophisticated Appliances for Fire Fighting and Rescue in High-Rise Buildings**

5. It was decided at the 18th meeting to recommend that 30 M was the optimum length (height) of the ladders/hydraulic platforms which should be used by the fire services and that where an individual Chief Officer/director of Fire service wanted to go in for taller ladders, he must be very cautious-specially regarding intensive training of men who would operate such tall ladders.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 18th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Bells Vs. Sirens for Fire Appliances**

6. Suitability of Bells vs. Sirens for fire appliances were discussed at the 14th meeting. The following decisions were taken:—
- (a) The Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service should send a sample of bell to the National Physical Laboratory for testing and the Indian standards Institution should coordinate the testing and take further follow-up action as necessary.
  - (b) It should be left to the individual States to decide if sirens should also be fitted to fire appliances in addition to the fire bells.
  - (c) The Proposal for fitting revolving lamps with two-tone horns on fire appliances in addition to bells should be referred to the Indian Standards Institution for being considered by their relevant Committee.

**Reference :** Page 9 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Paint for Fire Fighting Appliances**

7. In view of the difficulty in procuring 'Fire Red' Shade No. 536, the Bureau of Indian Standards proposed its replacement with Shade No.538 Post Office Red. This was discussed at length at the 25th meeting. The Council finally recommended that both shades should be permitted.

**Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.

## **8. EQUIPMENT (PROCUREMENT)**

### **Consumer should have opportunity to scrutinise tenders**

1. At their second meeting, the Committee requested that the consumer should have the opportunity to scrutinise the tenders in offer his comments and also to inspect the equipment as far as possible.

**Reference :** Page 17 of the minutes of the Second Meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Purchase of Equipment through the Directorate General Supplies & Disposals**

2. This subject came up for discussion at the ninth meeting. It was pointed out that the Ministry of Home Affairs had given an option to purchase the equipment either through the Directorate General Supplies and Disposals or through local purchasing agencies. The object in processing the whole case through the former was that it would enable the manufacturers to give greater consideration in respect of prices, standard, etc., if items were obtained in bulk. If, however, the local authorities felt that they could get the equipment sooner through their own purchasing agencies, the option was left to them by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Reference :** Page 5 of the minutes of the ninth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Consultation with the S.F.A.C. Member of Concerned State**

3. It was decided at the twelfth meeting that in future the States would be consulted in regard to the type of the priming system and other ancillaries required by them and efforts would be made to meet their requirements to the extent possible, bearing in mind the need for economy

**Reference :** Page 6 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Complaint about the equipment Supplied through Directorate General Supplies and Disposals**

4. At the thirteenth meeting, several members complained about the fire fighting equipment supplied through the Directorate General Supplies and Disposals, which they said, did not come up to the required standards from operational point of view. It was, however, felt that since the was now to be associated with the functional tests before acceptance, that would solve most difficulties and would go a long way in satisfying their needs.

**Reference :** Page 5 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Procurement of breathing Apparatus**

5. The Committee recommended at the 14th meeting that breathing apparatus of the compressed air type should be provided for the fire services:

**Reference :** Page 23 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Procurement of Equipments - Norms for Procurement to be Standardised**

6. Difficulties in procurement of quality equipment in the States were discussed at the 25th meeting. The Council recommended that it would be desirable if every State/Union Territory could have a purchase committee comprising the Secretary concerned with the fire service, Director/Chief Fire Officer and a representative of the State's Industries Deptt. The Council also recommended that wherever there were a Bureau of Indian Standards (B.I.S.) Specifications (I.S.S.), the items to be purchased should conform to those specifications.

**Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.



## **9. EQUIPMENT (MAXIMUM LIFE)**

### **Annual Depreciation on Fire Brigade/Equipment**

- 1 This subject first came up before the committee at the fifth meeting and then again at the sixth meeting, but was deferred both times for want of sufficient data. It was finalised at the eighth meeting. The Committee recommended as follows:—

The equipment should be classified into 6 categories and the normal life, annual depreciation and residual value fixed for equipment in each category as shown in Appendix '9-A'.

- References :
1. Page 7 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Page 6 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  3. Pages 9 and 10 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of S.F.A.C.

## **10. EQUIPMENT (SUITABILITY)**

### **Provision of Water Sprayers, Foam Pourers, etc. for Naptha Storage Tanks**

1. Suitability of water sprayers, foam pourers, etc. for Naptha Storage Tanks was considered at the 21st meeting. The Committee was of the view that if such equipment was properly designed and engineered it should serve the desired purpose for which it is intended. Such installations were considered essential in the interest of Safety.

**Reference:** 1. Page 7 of the minutes of the 21st meeting of S.F.A.C.

## 11. PERSONNEL

### Manpower Requirements

1. The manpower requirements for fire stations were considered at the sixth meeting. It was felt that the requirements varied according to the types of fire fighting appliances to be manned, the number of fire engines at the station, the duty system - continuous or shift duty and the extent of other duties, like inspection of hydrant and water resources, testing of fire-alarms and the type of communication system at a place. Based on those factors, the Committee recommended the following strength :-

**(a) Station Officers and Sub-Officers**

The scale of Station Officers and Sub-officers at Stations should be as under :-

Size of Station		Strength of Officers
1.	Pumps Station	1 Station Officer or 1 Sub-Officer
2.	Pumps Station	1 Stn. Officer & 1 Sub-Officer
3.	Pumps Station	1 Stn. Officer & 2 Sub-Officers
4.	Pumps Station	2 Stn. Officers & 2 Sub-Officers
5.	Pumps Station	2 Stn. Officers & 3 Sub-Officers
6.	Pumps Station	2 Stn. Officers & 4 Sub-Officers

**Note 1 :** Where the extent of fire risk may justify Sub-Officers may be replaced by Station Officers.

**Note 2 :** Reserve Staff :-

- (a) A 50 per cent reserve of total staff of Station Officers and Sub-Officers on duty, to be provided for periodical relief to enable the officers to avail 24 hours off after every 48 hours on duty.
- (b) A 10 per cent of the total staff on duty and periodical relief to be provided as training reserve.
- (c) A leave reserve of 15 per cent on the total staff on duty, periodical relief and training reserve to be provided as replacement for all types of leave.

**(b) Leading Fireman**

There should be one Leading Fireman per fire appliance and one for station and outdoor duties at all times.

**(c) Drivers/Operators**

One Driver/Operator per motor vehicle plus a duty reserve which will ensure the following minimum number to be provided at each station :-

No. of Motor vehicles at the station	No. of Drivers/ operators
1	2
2	3
3	4
4	6
5	7
6	9

**(d) Firemen**

The scale of Firemen will be six per fire appliance apart from one fireman for fire-alarm duties, two firemen for hydrant and water resources inspection and one fireman for despatch duties per station.

**Note 1:** There should be a reserve of 25 per cent of the total number of leading Firemen, Drivers/Operators and Firemen worked out according to the above scale to serve as Training Reserve and Leave Reserve of all types.

**Note 2 :** Where two shift system is in vogue, the number of Leading Firemen, Drivers/Operators and Firemen will be double.

**Note 3 :** Where three shift system is in vogue, the number of Leading Firemen, Drivers/Operators and Firemen will be three times the scale mentioned above.



**(e) Watch Room Operators**

Four watch room operators for each station to be provided, one to be on duty for every 8 hours and the fourth man to be spared for relief work. In addition, an overall reserve of 25% for the service as a whole to be provided.

**(f) Clerks**

Where the station functions as an independent unit and has its own cash and store work, one clerk may be provided.

**(g) Sweepers**

This class of employees should be provided at the scale of one per 5000 sq. ft. of covered area and one per 7000 sq. ft. of open area, subject to a minimum of one at each station.

**(h) Gardeners**

one gardener for every half acre of land required to be maintained at a garden.

At places having more than one station where headquarters of city fire brigades exists, the staff required should vary from place to place depending on the strength of the crew. The following general observations may serve as a guide :-

*Officers:* The scale of officers with relation to their responsibility or command should be fixed as per recommendations made by this Committee under item No. 10 of its 4th meeting held in March, 1958. It is however considered necessary that there should be an Equipment Officer of the rank of Divisional Officer, Assistant Divisional officer, Station Officer or Sub-Officer, depending upon the size of the Brigade.

*Training Staff:* A minimum of one Station Officer, one Sub-Officer, one Driver/Operator and six firemen should be provided if there is a full fledged training school attached to the service.

*Ministerial staff:* A Storekeeper, a Cashier, a Stenographer and an Accountant must be provided for the Fire Service. However, where considered necessary assistants should be provided as per actual requirements.

*Headquarters/Control Room:* A Mobilising Officer holding a rank from a Divisional Officer to a Sub-officer depending on the size of the Fire service should be provided to hold charge of the Control Room. In addition, an adequate number of watch room operators working on three shift system should be provided.

*Fire Aides:* One Fireman Aide for each Officer above the rank of Station Officer should be provided  
*Office Orderlies :* These requirements for offices should be worked out separately as per scales laid down.

*General:* In addition to above, the staff required for maintenance of hose, for arranging supply of water for fire fighting and for fire prevention work should be engaged as per actual requirements.

The scale of staff required for manning the Fire service Workshop would depend on the size of the Service and the number of motor vehicles and fire appliances and therefore will have to be worked out separately. The Committee would have no objection to work out these details in one of their subsequent meetings.

**Reference :** Pages 12 to 15 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Duty Systems**

2. It was decided to leave it to the individual States/Fire Authorities to take a decision regarding the duty system to be followed in their respective fire services.

**Reference :** Page 9 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Physical Assessment Tests**

3. A sub-committee was constituted at the 19th meeting to examine the 'physical assessment tests for fire services'. Its report is given at Appendix '11-G' to this compendium.

4. The Sub-committee's recommendations were accepted by the Committee with the following changes.
- (i) Height of the recruits may be specified from 5'-3" (157.5 cms) upwards.
  - (ii) Test for colour blindness should be introduced at the time of recruitment.
  - (iii) Periodicity for assessment tests may be prescribed as "preferably six-monthly".
  - (iv) Where personnel from different establishment are to be taken over by another Fire Authority, provision should be made that only those persons who are physically fit in accordance with standard recommended by the Sub-committee should be absorbed.
- Reference :** Pages 7 and 8 of the minutes of the 19th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Qualifications for Various Ranks**

5. Prescription of qualifications for the various ranks in the services was considered at the third meeting. The recommendations of the committee are given at Appendix "11-A" to this compendium.
- Reference :** Pages 5 to 9 of the minutes of the third meeting of S.F.A.C.
6. While considering the designations of Fire Officers at the fourth meeting, the Committee also recommended that the qualification prescribed for appointment should be to the various ranks and not for the designations or posts held.
- Reference :** Pages 12 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Recruitment Rules**

7. Draft recruitment rules for the various ranks in the Fire Services were first taken up for consideration at the sixth meeting, but a decision on those was postponed.
8. The draft rules were reconsidered at the seventh meeting and finalised, Committees recommendations are given at Appendix "11-B" to this compendium.
9. Syllabuses under Draft Rules for examination for promotions in Fire Services in India are given at Appendix "11-C" to this compendium, to give broad outlines, for laying the standards or for framing the rules in respect of examinations, and promotions according to local conditions.

#### **Three-Tier Entry into the Fire Service**

10. It was recommended at the 21st meeting that for direct entry into fire services in the rank of Divisional Officer, the B.E. (Fire Engg.) course should be prescribed as the essential technical qualification.
- Reference :** Page 9 of the minutes of the 21st meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Direct Recruitment of B.E. ( Fire Engg.) Graduates**

11. The question of employment of B.E. ( Fire Engg.) graduates was again raised at the 23rd meeting of the Committee. The chairman was of the view those graduates should normally be eligible for employment at Asstt. Divisional Officer's level.
- Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.
12. While considering another item on the agenda of the 23rd meeting, the Chairman reiterated the view expressed by him earlier and said that since B.E. (Fire Engg.) is a regular three and a half years Degree course, it has to be ensured that these graduates in Fire Engineering are placed in positions at par with those which are offered to other Engineering Graduates.
- Reference :** Page 11 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.
13. The urgency of amendment to Recruitment Rules for Fire Services in States/Ministries, in view of the availability of fully qualified B.E. (Fire Engg.) Graduates for employment at suitable levels, was emphasised by the Chairman at the 24th meeting. He suggested that since these young Graduates need to acquire practical operational experience which is important for employment in regular fire services, consideration may be given for absorbing them at the Station Officers level initially.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 24th meeting of S.F.A.C.

14. While considering another agenda item on employment of B.E. (Fire Engg.) Graduates at the 24th meeting, the Chairman called upon members to persuade their respective administrative authorities to get the Recruitment Rules amended early so as to include B.E. ( Fire Engg.) qualification also for posts under the 'Fire' Discipline.

**Reference :** Page 16 of the minutes of the 24th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Duties of various Ranks in the Fire Services**

15. The standardisation of duties of various ranks in the Fire Services was first taken up at the fifth meeting, but was deferred for want of full information regarding the prevalent duties in various State Fire Services.
16. This was considered again at the ninth meeting and the duties are given at Appendix "11-E" to this Compendium.

#### **Retirement Age and Pensionary Benefits**

17. This was discussed at the twelfth meeting. Considering the very arduous and hazardous conditions of service, the Committee recommended that full pensionary benefits should be awarded to members of the Fire Services on the following basis :-

Sl. No.	Rank	Service
1.	All ranks up to Sub-Officers (Excluding Telephone Operators	20 years
2.	Station Officers	25 years
3.	Gazetted Officers	Normal rules

**Reference :** Page 12 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Welfare**

18. The Committee took up for consideration the question of compensation to the personnel of Fire Services in case of injury, disability or death at the third meeting. Their recommendations are given at Appendix "11-F".
19. While making these recommendations, the Member representing the Railway had some reservations. According to him, the conditions that could prevail at fire operations of industrial fire establishments, such as Railways, could not be as severe as those with State Fire Service who had to handle all varieties of fire situations. There was also the necessity for uniform service conditions for the different cadres of an Establishment in the interest of Labour-Administration relation and such liberal compensation provision would be difficult for railways, etc. to arrange.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the third meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Benevolent Fund - Use for Awards and Cash Grants**

20. The Committee was of the opinion that awards and cash grants for any outstanding work done by members of the fire service should not be made out of the benevolent fund and that such awards should be given out of normal budget allotment for the fire services.

**Reference :** Page 12 of the minutes of the 15th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Compulsory Accident Benefit for Firemen and Insurance Cover for Fire Service Personnel**

21. The Committee decided at the 16th meeting, to recommend, to the State Governments that considering the hazardous nature of duties of fire service personnel, it is necessary that adequate compensation should be provided for them and their families in case of injury or loss of life.

**Reference :** Page 5 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S.F.A.C.



### **Accident Victims**

22. It was agreed at the 28th meeting to recommend provision of pensionary benefits to the families of those killed in active service and those who were invalidated. It was decided to recommend that the State Govts./UT Administrations should make a provision for such pensionary benefits in the service rules for their respective fire service personnels.

**Reference :** Item No. 33 of the minutes of the 28th meeting of S.F.A.C page no. 9.

### **Provision of Rent-free Accommodation**

23. This subject came up for discussion at the 23rd meeting of the Council. The Council was of the view that, considering the nature of duties to be performed by members of the fire services, it was essential that rent-free accommodation should be provided for all members of the service at the fire station premises.

**Reference :** Page 11 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Living Accommodation on the premise**

24. It was recommended by the Committee at the Seventh Meeting that suitable rent-free quarters should be provided to all ranks of the services on the premises of a Fire station and that if that could not be possible, suitable arrangement should be made to provide them rent-free accommodation in the locality neighbouring a Fire station. This was considered necessary in view of the fact that it was essential that the members of the Fire services were available at all times.

**Reference :** Page 12 of the minutes of the seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Trade Union Activities**

25. With a view to maintain the efficiency of the Fire Services which had a very specialised role to perform, the question of prohibiting the members of these services from taking part in Trade Union Activities was first considered at the seventh meeting of the Committee.
26. The members were of the view that it was essential that members of the Fire Services should not be affected by Trade Union Activities and that the Fire Services should be considered on the same lines as Police or other essential services. They, however, agreed that there would be no objection if some sort of staff council was established to look after the welfare and general problems of the members of the Fire Service.
27. The question was again raised at the eighth meeting when the chairman informed the members that the Ministry of Home Affairs had already communicated views of the Committee to the State Governments and if this had not been done, he would ensure that necessary action was taken.
28. The topic came up for discussion again at the ninth meeting when it was indicated that this could possibly be done by the State Governments themselves and suggested that the matter might be examined locally and if these difficulties were still experienced, other solutions could be considered.
29. Once again, this was discussed at the eleventh-meeting under the heading "Formation of Associations, Unions, etc. for the Fire services". The committee was on the view that even if the Association, Unions, etc. were formed, which could not be refused under the law, it should be for specific purposes beneficial to the members of the Associations or the Unions, but in any case it should not be controlled by outside agencies or attached to- a political organization. They were further of the view that Associations or Unions could be formed for the specific purpose but the members should be precluded from participation in strike for whatever reason. Each of the services should have a Staff council for which general terms and conditions should be prescribed which should be followed uniformly throughout the country. The rules of recognition should be based on the present rules of recognition framed by the Bombay Municipal Corporation.

**Reference :**

1. page 7 of the minutes of the seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.
2. page 6 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of S.F.A.C.
3. page 4 of the minutes of the ninth meeting of S.F.A.C.
4. page 9 of the minutes of the eleventh meeting of S.F.A.C.

30. The question of putting a ban on Trade Union Activities in fire services was again discussed at the 28th meeting. It was generally agreed that the Union Activities were not conducive to functioning of a Uniform service like the 'fire service'.

**Reference :** Item No. 27 of the minutes of the 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - Page No.8

#### **Declaring the Fire Services "Essential Services"**

31. 'Trade Union Activities' in the fire service was again considered at the 14th meeting of the Committee. The Committee recommended that the fire services, whether run by Governments, local bodies or industrial undertakings, should be declared 'essential services' and that their right to resort to strike should be taken away from them.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

The Council recommended at the 25th meeting that fire services should be declared 'essential services' because this would definitely improve the efficiency and discipline amongst personnel of the fire services.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.

## 12. APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION FOR FIRE SERVICES

1. The Committee decided, at the 21st meeting, to recommend to the Government of India that a Commission should be appointed for looking into the Organisation and Conditions of Service of fire fighting personnel all over the country and to recommend way and means of improving them.

**Reference :** Page 13 of the minutes of the 21st meeting of S.F.A.



### 13. RANKS UNIFORM AND RANK MARKINGS

1. The Standing Fire Advisory Committee considered standardisation of uniform clothing, ranks and badges of rank at their first meeting, held at New Delhi from the 9th to 11th February, 1956 and came to the conclusion that in view of the Fire Services in most of the States not being under State Control, it would be difficult to standardise these

**Reference :** Page 7 of the minutes of the first meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### Ranks

2. The committee, at their second meeting, held at the National Fire Service college, Rampur, from 3rd to 6th July, 1956, recommend the various ranks for adoption for fire services throughout the country These are given at Appendix "13-A"
3. The committee considered these further at their fourth meeting, held at New Delhi on 3rd and 4th March, 1958 and modified their recommendations, which are given at Appendix "13-B".

**References :**

1. Pages 12 and 13 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.
2. Pages 10 and 11 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### Rank Markings

4. The Committee recommended the rank markings, for the various ranks recommended by them, at the second meeting. These were revised at the fourth meeting. The revised recommendations are given at Appendix "13-C".

**References :**

1. Pages 13 and 14 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.
2. Pages 10 and 11 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.

5. The question of adopting a five-pointed star in the cap badge, instead of the eight-pointed star, was considered at the fourth meeting and again at the fifth meeting, after making certain enquiries from the Defence Ministry, and it was decided to retain the eight-pointed star as proposed earlier.
6. The Committee recommended the inclusion of the State emblem in the cap badge for all Fire Service personnel at their sixth meeting.
7. The committee further recommended, at their twelfth meeting that the embroidered cap badge be replaced by a metal cap badge and the metal cap badge presently prescribed for Leading Firemen and below, should be used by all ranks upto Assistant Divisional Officer. They also recommended that for ranks of Divisional Officer and above, the same metal badge should have a wreath added to it.
8. The rank markings for fire helmets were proposed at the tenth meeting and were finalised at the twelfth meeting. The Committee's recommendations are given at Appendix "13-D".

**References :**

1. Pages 13 and 14 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.
2. Pages 3, 10 and 11 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.
3. Page 4 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.
4. Pages 3 and 4 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.
5. Page 9 of the minutes of the tenth meeting of S.F.A.C.
6. Pages 5 and 6 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### Wearing of State Emblem by Senior Fire Officers

9. 'Permitting the wearing of State Emblem by some Senior Fire Officers' was taken up by the Director of Fire service, Tamil Nadu at the 14th meeting of the Committee. A Sub-Committee was constituted who presented a report. It was decided to postpone the decision on the Sub-Committee's recommendations. The Secretary of the S.A.F.C. was directed to ascertain the views of members by correspondence and try to formulate a decision in consultation with the chairman.

**Reference :** Pages 7 and 8 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

10. The matter again came up for consideration at the 16th meeting. It was decided that the existing badges of rank should be retained, but the Director of Fire Service in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, where the fire service had been established as a separate Department of the State Govt. with a profession of Head of Service, might be permitted to wear an additional small impeller as part of their shoulder-markings. It was also decided that the Deputy Director in those states might be permitted to wear the present badges of rank prescribed for the Director/Chief Fire Officer according to their seniority/responsibility.

**Reference :** Page 5 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S. F.A.C.

#### **Uniform Clothing**

11. The items of uniform clothing which should be issued to Fire Service personnel, the specification and pattern of each and the periodicity of issue were recommended by the Committee, at its fifth meeting. The recommendations are given at Appendix "13-E".
12. Khaki colour was recommended by the Committee while making the above recommendations, except for the headgear and tie which were to be Navy Blue. At the sixth meeting, the colour of socks was also changed to Navy Blue to bring it in line with the colour of headgear and tie. But, at the eighth meeting, the Committee recommended that the colour for headgear and socks may be khaki. The question of the colour for Fire Service uniform as a whole was, however, again discussed at the twelfth meeting and it was decided to leave this matter to each State to decide.
13. The "Dress Order" for various occasions and the draft Fire Service uniform rules were recommended by the Committee at the sixth and eighth meetings respectively. These recommendations are given at Appendices "13-F" and "13-G".

**References :**

1. Pages 6 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.
2. Pages 4 and 7 to 9 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.
3. Page 6 and 11 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of S.F.A.C.
4. Page 7 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Uniformity in Wearing of Uniform by Fire Service Personnel**

14. The Council recommended at the 23rd meeting that a circular letter be issued to all concerned with a view to ensuring uniformity in the matter of wearing of uniform by fire service personnel as per recommendations of the SFAC.

**Reference :** Page 6 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Amendments to Fire Service Uniform Rules**

15. At the 14th meeting, the following amendments were recommended to the 'Fire Service Uniform Rules' (See Appendices "13-A" and "13-G" to this Compendium) :-
- (a) Gazetted Officers may be supplied Jodhpur pattern brown shoes and Jodhpur pattern brown boots in alternate years, the latter for being worn with working dress and the former for use on ceremonial occasions.
  - (b) They may be permitted to use bone buttons with their working dress so that the use of metal buttons may be restricted to ceremonial occasions as in the case of Police Officers.
16. It was also decided at the 14th meeting that the Member-Secretary should draw up a suitable scale for the issue of uniform to fire service personnel and circulate it to all members for comments before it is finalised.
- Reference :** Pages 8 and 9 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.
17. It was decided to recommend at the 17th meeting to all Fire Authorities to adopt tucked in shirts in place of bush shirts for all ranks in the fire services. It was also decided to recommend that 'Fire tunic' should continue to be issued to all ranks.

**Reference :** Page 6 of the minutes of the 17th meeting of S.F.A.C.

## 14. AWARDS

### Introduction of Medals/Ribbons

1. The question of award of medals to the members of the Fire Service was taken up at the tenth meeting.
2. Members observed that the present system of common medals, viz. the Presidents' Police and Fire Service Medal and the Indian Police Medal issued to the Police and the Fire Services, should be split separately for the two services and the fire services should have distinctive medals of their own for gallantry, devotion to duty, long service, good conduct, etc., known as President's Fire Services Medal and the Indian Fire Services Medal, which should not be mixed with the Police Medals. The colour, shape, ribbon, etc., should also be different from those used for Indian Police Services. It was resolved that the Ministry of Home Affairs might consider this matter in consultation with the appropriate authority and rules framed for the same which could then be considered, by the Committee.  
**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the tenth meeting of S.F.A.C.
3. The medals for Fire Service personnel and Police Personnel were separated in the year 1975 on 29th May. The following medals have since been instituted for the Fire Service:
  - (i) President's Fire Service Medal for gallantry
  - (ii) President's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service.
  - (iii) Fire Service Medal for gallantry.
  - (iv) Fire Service Medal for meritorious Service.
4. A copy of the Statutes and Rules for the award of the Fire Service Medals is given at Appendix "14-A" to this Compendium. A copy of the proforma for recommending the award of these medals is given at Appendix "14-B".

### Rules for Introduction of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and other Medals in the Fire Services

5. This was taken up at the twelfth meeting. The Committee recommended that a special sub-committee be set up in Delhi to examine the whole question of award of medals to men of the Fire Services, both for gallantry and meritorious services on the one hand for long service and good conduct on the other.  
**Reference :** Page 12 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.
6. Institution of 'Long Service and Good Conduct' medals was again taken up at the 20th meeting. The Committee recommended institution of these medals for those fire service personnel who had a clean record of service on completion of 10, 15 and 25 years of service, because, in the opinion of the Committee, such medals would go a long way in improving the discipline, morale and efficiency of the fire services.  
**Reference :** Page 12 of the minutes of the 20th meeting of S.F.A.C.
7. At the 22nd meeting, the council reiterated the recommendations made at the 20th meeting and initiated action for drafting Rules governing the grant of such medals.  
**Reference :** Page 13 of the minutes of the 22nd meeting of S.F.A.C.

### Publication of Particulars of Recipients of Fire Service Medals in the Quarterly Journal of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) India

8. A proposal from the IFE (India) regarding publication of particulars of recipients of Fire Service Medals in the Quarterly Journal of IFE (India) was considered at the 25th meeting. The Council recommended that IFE (India) be furnished with such particulars alongwith Citations.  
**Reference :** Page 9 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.



## 15. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

### Drill Manual for the Fire Services in India

1. Consequent upon the decision of the Government of India to set up a National Fire Service College, it became necessary to lay down the various fire drills which could be taught at the College. It was also necessary to print a Drill Manual so that all Fire Services in the country would follow the same drills. This question was therefore taken up at the first meeting of the Committee. The first draft was prepared and was approved at that meeting and the drills laid down therein were introduced at the College. The draft was, however, modified in subsequent meetings and the Drill Manual for the Fire Services in India was finally printed in 1963. It may be obtained on payment from the Manager of Publication, Delhi.

- References :**
1. Page 2 of the minutes of the first meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Page 18 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.
  3. Page 2 of the minutes of the four meeting of S.F.A.C.
  4. Pages 5 and 6 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### Booklet 'Save your Home from Fire'

2. Draft of a booklet entitled 'Save your Home from Fire', was considered at the first meeting of the committee and the text was generally approved with some modifications. The Committee had, however, recommended that since the booklet was intended for circulation to the general public and educational institutions, a fresh draft should be prepared, on the lines indicated by them, by entrusting the work to a person having experience in writing short stories, useful for general public and students. The booklet was subsequently revised and printed. Copies may be had on payment of RS.00.75 per copy from the Manager of Publications, Government of India, Delhi.

- Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the first meeting of S.F.A.C.

### Booklet 'Fire Safety in Homes'

3. Draft of a booklet entitled 'Fire Safety in Homes' was proposed and a number of suggestions were made by the Committee at the first meeting. The Publication of that booklet was, however, dropped by the Ministry of Home Affairs later.

- Reference :** Pages 8 and 9 of the minutes of the first meeting of S.F.A.C.

### Booklet 'Rescue Technique'

4. Draft of a booklet entitled 'Rescue Technique' was proposed at the first meeting of the Committee and consideration of its suitability, or otherwise, was postponed.
5. It again came up for consideration at the second meeting, when a number of suggestions were made and the title was changed to 'Elementary Rescue'.

- References :**
1. Page 9 of the minutes of the first meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Page 17 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.

### Handbook on Fire Services in India

6. Draft of a Handbook on Fire Services in India was examined by the Committee at the sixth meeting and was recommended to be printed with certain modifications. The publication of the Handbook was, however, later dropped on the advice of the Chairman, SFAC.
7. The matter came up for discussion again at the tenth meeting, when the Committee felt that it was too early to think of having a Manual of that kind and deferred the matter. But, the need for a Handbook of that type was accepted by the Committee at the twelfth meeting and it was agreed to undertake its preparation after the Fire Adviser to the Ministry of Home Affairs had joined.

- References :**
1. Page 10 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Page 10 of the minutes of the tenth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  3. Page 13 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Booklet 'Elementary Fire Fighting and Fire Prevention'**

8. Draft of a booklet entitled 'Elementary Fire Fighting and Fire Prevention' for the guidance of instructors who might have to give lectures to school children, was considered at the seventh meeting and it was decided that the Secretary of the Committee should revise it.
9. It again came up for consideration at the eighth meeting and it was decided to keep its publication in abeyance.

**References :** 1. Page 14 of the minutes of the seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.  
2. Page 8 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Publication of Directory of Fire Services of All India basis**

10. At the 15th meeting, the Committee recommended that a Directory of Fire Services on All India basis should be prepared.

**Reference :** Page 12 of the minutes of the 15th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Films**

11. The Committee recommended at the second meeting that documentary films might be prepared and that such films should be confined to the aspects of fire prevention for householders and first aid for everybody. They further suggested that documentary films should be produced for showing the elementary fire fighting operations for householders and also educating the public with regard to their co-operation with the Fire Services in the matter of keeping Fire hydrants, free from any obstruction or misuse, giving the 'right of way' to Fire Fighting Vehicles while attending the calls, keeping note of nearest fire alarm, telephone or fire station with the telephone number of the fire service, etc.

12. A film entitled 'Fire Prevention for House-holders' has been prepared on those lines and is being exhibited during the 'Fire Prevention Week/Fire Services Day' every year.

**Reference :** Page 15 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.

13. The Committee recommended at the fourth meeting that dubbing of the documentary film in Regional languages may be considered.

**Reference :** Page 5 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Institution of Fire Engineers, India**

14. The question of formation of an Indian Institute of Fire Engineers was mooted at the fifth meeting by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs in his inaugural address. A sub-committee was appointed to draw up the draft constitution, articles and bye-laws for the proposed Institute.

15. The report of the Sub-committee, alongwith the draft prepared by them, were considered at the sixth meeting, when it was decided to recommend those to the Govt. of India.

16. Members were informed by the Chairman at the eighth meeting that the setting up of the Institution of Fire Protection Engineers, as envisaged by the Ad-hoc Committee and recommended by the members of the SFAC, was acceptable in principle to the Ministry of Home Affairs, but steps to set it up, should be taken by the members themselves. It was felt by the Ministry that the body was basically a professional organisation on the lines of Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and that it should be run by the representatives connected with fire fighting in the country. After the organisation was set up and started functioning, it could then submit proposals for any financial assistance that it might require from the Government of India or the State Governments and that would be considered at the appropriate time. The Chairman hoped that in view of that, the members who had suggested the formation of that body would take steps accordingly and that body when established, would receive the 'blessings of all concerned' in that respect.

17. The formation of the Institution of Fire Engineers was revived at the twelfth meeting, when it was recommended that a Special Sub-committee be set up in Delhi to examine the question of its formation.

18. Once again, it came up for discussion at the thirteenth meeting when it was postponed because of the short notice to members.

**References :** 1. Page 7 of the minutes of the fifth meeting of S.F.A.C.

2. Page 5 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.
3. Page 4 of the minutes of the eighth meeting of S.F.A.C.
4. Page 13 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.
5. Page 10 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of S.F.A.C.

**NOTE :** The Institution of Fire Engineers (India) was established on 13th Feb., 1973 by some Senior Fire-Officers. The Institution conducts professional examinations and its membership is recognised for appointment to various posts in the fire services.

### **Institution of Fire Engineering Training-cum-Research Trust**

19. The Council recommended at the 23rd meeting that immediate steps be taken for starting a 'Fire Service Training-cum-Research Trust' in the country to help promote higher training facilities in the field of Fire Engineering, both within the country as well as outside for deserving candidates in the Fire Engineering Discipline. A working group was set up to work out details. It was decided to include a representative of 'Fire Fighting Equipment Manufacturers' Association in the working group.

**Reference :** Page 13 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Deputation of Fire Officers abroad under Technical Aid Programmes**

20. The question of deputation of Fire Officers abroad under Technical Aid Programmes was taken up at the sixth meeting. The members observed that it was essential that Fire Officers of the country were kept abreast of modern developments in the techniques of fire fighting and fire prevention applicable to special risks. To achieve that, it was necessary that sufficient experienced officers of the Fire Services from different parts of the country, were deputed to countries that were more advanced in the field of Fire Engineering to learn new techniques in the field, so that the fire fighting potential of the country could be developed and improved upon to meet the varying demands made on it, as a result of industrialisation.
21. The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs should give serious consideration to that and take early steps to implement the same.
22. The matter came up for discussion again at the ninth meeting when it was felt that any officer to be deputed under the Technical Aid Programme should not be required to undergo training of the courses run at the U. K. Fire Service College or such other short courses elsewhere, since such type of training could be conveniently had in the Training Institutions available in the country. The members were unanimously of the opinion that only very senior Fire-Officers of the country, preferably of the ranks of Deputies and above, of the Fire Services, should be deputed to go to more advanced countries for a duration of 8 to 10 weeks to enable them to study advanced methods and techniques in Fire Prevention and Extinction and Fire Engineering by having short attachments at different Training Institutions in the Fire Service field and major Fire Services, as also paying visits to important industrial undertakings, so as to enable them to learn the modern developments and new techniques in those fields. That would, in general, bring about the development of Indian Fire Services on proper and efficient lines, thus bringing an overall improvement in those services.

**References :**

1. Pages 17 and 18 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.
2. Page 5 of the minutes of the ninth meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Study Tours of Officers of the Fire Services**

23. This question was taken up for consideration at the thirteenth meeting. It was generally agreed that such visits were highly desirable, but that such visits might be for the present restricted to officers of the ranks of Divisional Officers and above.

**Reference :** Page 12 of the minutes of the thirteen meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Use of Camera**

24. The committee recommended at the eleventh meeting that each Fire Service should be equipped with cameras to take photographs of actual fires which would prove of much value for instructional and operational purposes.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 11th meeting of S.F.A.C.



25. It was decided to recommend at the 28th meeting that all fire departments should procure Video Camera alongwith one TV and VCR/VCP for analysis of fire incident and upgrading training in fire protection.

**Reference :** Item NO.30 of the Minutes of 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - Page no. 8.

#### **Training at the National Fire Service College**

26. The Committee made the following recommendations in respect of training at the National Fire Service College at various meetings :-

##### **Fourth Meeting**

- (a) A separate syllabus should be prepared for Elementary course in fire fighting for the ranks of Firemen and Leading Firemen by the Commandant, National Fire Service College, for being followed at State Training Schools wherever these are in existence.
- (b) Sub-Officers' Course, as conducted at the College, might be conducted at State Training Schools also and States having their own Schools might be requested by the Ministry of Home Affairs to accept trainees from outside their services and states as far as possible.
- (c) Training Schools, wherever they were in existence, at that time and those which were likely to be started in future, should be affiliated to the National Fire Service College by satisfying certain basic condition to be laid down in respect of staff, equipment, training facilities, etc.
- (d) There should be only one Fire Prevention Course covering general aspects of Fire-Prevention, instead of two and the same should be open only to those who had a minimum of 5 years' experience in Fire Service and had pass Matriculation or equivalent examination.

##### **Sixth Meeting**

- (a) Training in motor driving should not be introduced at the National Fire Service College.
- (b) The syllabus, as prepared by the Commandant National Fire Service College, for candidates belonging to the industrial establishments who serve in the safety and fire security services was approved by the Committee. Copies of the syllabus may be had on application from the Director of the College.
- (c) Question papers for various courses conducted at the College may be set by outside Fire Officers as also outside Fire Officers should be invited to examine and assess all papers and for conducting practical examinations viva-voice tests, etc. with Commandant of the College being the Chairman of such Board.
- (d) Members desired that all details of courses, including precis, standard of training, copies of examination papers, mode of examination, etc. followed at the College be made known to them. It was decided that members should put up their own suggestions in that matter and also state where the standards of the various courses were not clear as stated in the syllabus. Those could, if necessary, be considered at a subsequent meeting.

##### **Seventh Meeting**

- (a) The question of extending the Sub-Officers Course was considered. The members felt that if the course had to be extended, it would be more in the interest of the trainees to give them additional practical training by attachment with a Regular Fire Brigade rather than increasing theoretical course at the National Fire Service College and suggested that the Commandant might consider that and submit further proposals.
- (b) It was proposed to extend the duration of the Divisional and Assistant Divisional Officers' Course and the General Prevention Course at the National Fire Service College. Members indicated that they had no objection to the extension of those two courses to 16 weeks and left the matter to be finally decided by the Commandant of the College and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (c) Members felt that they were not satisfied with the working and methods of imparting training at the College and opined that quite a lot of misunderstanding could be removed if they could be taken into confidence and their assistance sought. That, they felt, could be achieved by the establishment of a Standing Sub-Committee for improvements at the College and unanimously decided that S/Shri M.J.B. Maneckji, M.G. Pradhan, S.K.Bose, A.B. Advani and Mohinder Singh should constitute the Sub-Committee.

- (d) The Chairman informed the members that the time had come for having a permanent site for the College. He was of the view that for the Institution to expand and fulfill its role, it was necessary that it was established close to an established Fire-Service. He felt that if suitable sites were not available in Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai etc. some other alternatives should be considered. He felt it was no use making 'makeshift' arrangements at that time and felt that in view of the growing importance a suitable site if necessary in proximity of Delhi might be considered and new buildings built, and if grants were not available, we should consider that in the next plan period. The members endorsed the views of the Chairman.

#### **Eighth Meeting**

- (a) The Standing Sub-Committee on training (see under seventh meeting) was enlarged and S/Shri P.N. Mehrotra and S.G. Vengsarkar were included in it.

#### **Ninth Meeting**

- (a) The question of physical fitness of candidates sponsored by the State Governments, etc. for training at the College was considered. It was felt that to adopt the practice that was followed in the Armed Forces, might not be completely suitable in respect of fire fighting personnel and decided to retain the standards that had already been prescribed. In the case of National Fire Service College, it was brought to the notice of the Committee that Commandant had the powers to relax conditions in suitable cases.
- (b) A Sub-Committee, comprising of S/Shri Pradhan, Lakhani and Advani was appointed to visit the States/Training Centre at Allahabad and to submit a report. The Chairman also requested all members that a note on the Fire Service in their State, regarding Legislation, Service conditions, etc. might be sent to the Commandant the College so that he might be in a position to pass that to the States who might require to collect such information.

#### **Tenth Meeting**

- (a) The Sub-Committee, appointed at the ninth meeting, to visit the State Fire Service Training to study the training course being imparted. The committee felt that with certain changes, it could be developed into a Regional Training Centre for those States within the region, who desired to send their people for training as they might not have facilities of their own for that purpose.
- (b) The Committee realised that there was need for setting up Regional Training Centres in the country and desired that the Government of India might examine that question. Members, however, observed that if the Ministry of Home Affairs could not set up such Regional Centres, it should at least explore the possibility for utilising the State Training Centre for that purpose.

#### **Eleventh Meeting**

- (a) The proposal to extend the duration of the Special Course for personnel from industrial establishments from six weeks to eight weeks was approved.
- (b) The Director, National Fire Service College was requested to send a complete set of precis, syllabus etc., of the courses run at the College to all members for their information.
- (c) There was no need to change the procedure in vogue for consideration of standards for admission to the two special courses conducted at the College, viz. the Police Officers' Course and the Industrial Officers' Course.

#### **Twelfth Meeting**

- (a) Industrial and Police Officers' courses should be shortened by one week and their visit to industrial establishments should be confined to Nagpur.
- (b) The qualifications recommended for those who sought admission to Divisional and Assistant Divisional Officers' Course at the College are given at Appendix '15-A'.
- (c) 25 marks out of total of 50 marks be allotted for practical work and maintenance of appliances and equipments on the Sub-Officers' Course at the College.
- (d) An Advisory Panel be set up for the College, consisting of Fire Adviser to the Ministry of Home Affairs and few Fire Chiefs of States.



- (e) The revision of syllabus and courses conducted at the College should be considered by the Advisory Board when set up.
- (f) The attachment forming part of course at the College should be adjusted as under :
  - (i) Sub-Officer's Course - Should be reduced to four weeks for both direct entrant and departmental candidates.
  - (ii) Station Officers' Course & Divisional and Asstt. Divisional Officers' Course - Should be limited to ten days only.
- (g) National Fire Service College should progressively shed the Sub-Officers' Course, and possibly the Station officers' Course, and concentrate on higher professional courses.
- (h) Some of the State Fire Training Centres should be converted into Regional Training Centres capable of running Sub-Officers' Course for the Region.

#### **Thirteenth Meeting**

- (a) There was obviously the need for additional temporary duty or daily allowance to people who came for training, as was the normal practice and this was a matter that the State Governments should take up with their Municipalities.
- (b) The Director of the College agreed to examine the possibility of improving the quality of food served to trainees at the College.
- (c) It was decided that there should be Regional Fire Training Centres on a zonal basis for training personnel upto Sub-Officers' grade.
- (d) The training at Regional Centres should continue to be imparted in English.
- (e) States concerned in each Zone should open Regional Centres with one fifth seats for themselves and four-fifths for other neighbouring States within their zones at the discretion of the Centre. For that the Centre might perhaps consider subsidy for trainee to a reasonable extent as also for the teaching staff and specialised equipment required specifically for that training.
- (f) The principle of direct entry to Station Officers' course was generally accepted by all, but members desired to study the syllabus put up by the Director in detail. It was decided to entrust that work to a Sub-Committee and to circulate its findings to members.
- (g) The Committee felt that the time had now come to have a permanent site for the National Fire Service College because at that time what existed was more or less on an improvised basis and totally inadequate for the required expansion.
- (h) Both the Colleges, viz. the National Civil Defence College and the National Fire Service College should be located on the same site (campus) and have common facilities like cinema halls, playing fields, hostels, messing, etc. which would be more economical and yet more effective.

- References :**
1. Pages 9 and 10 of the minutes of the fourth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Pages 6, 7, 11 to 14 and 10 to 18 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.
  3. Pages 9, 20 and 21 of the minute of the seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.
  4. Page 10 of the minutes of the 8th meeting of S.F.A.C.
  5. Pages 7 & 9 of the minutes of the 9th meeting of S.F.A.C.
  6. Pages 7 & 8 of the minutes of the 10th meeting of S.F.A.C.
  7. Page 7 & 9 of the minutes of the 11th meeting of S.F.A.C.
  8. Pages 7 to 10 of the minutes of the 12th meeting of S.F.A.C.
  9. Pages 7, 8 and 11 of the minutes of the 13th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Twenty eighth Meeting**

- (a) It was resolved that courses for non-professional fire personnel such as fire prevention course for factory Inspectors elementary fire fighting training for volunteers etc. for short duration should be discontinued at NFSC, Nagpur and these courses be conducted by Regional Training Centres.
- (b) Committee recommended that 8 Regional Training Centres be set up in the country. The training requirements for firemen on initial recruitment be met by these training centres. It was further agreed that firemen be deployed on operational duties only after completion of training in basic fire fighting either at Regional Training centres or at the training centre already existing in State Fire Services/Central Govt. Department Fire Services.

- Reference :** Item No.20 & 21 of Minutes of 28th meeting of S.F.A.C.



#### **Setting up of Regional Training Centres - page No.6 & 7**

27. While examining the follow up action on Setting up of Regional Training Centres, at the 14th meeting, the Director, National Fire Service College asserted that we could meet the training requirements of all States in so far as the Sub-Officers' course was concerned. The Committee recommended the following further action in the matter :-
- (a) All States/Central Ministries should intimate their requirements of seats on the Sub-Officer's Course at the college. They may be requested to do so for at least the current year and the next year.
  - (b) The Director, National Fire Service College should then state if he can meet the requirements.
  - (c) The opening of Regional Training centres may be pursued only if the College is unable to meet the training requirements.

**Reference :** Page 6 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Amendment to the syllabus for the Divisional Officer's Course at National Fire Service College**

28. The Committee recommended at the 14th meeting that the Advisory Board of the College may consider induction of an additional paper, or at least part of a paper, in the Divisional Officer's course examination to cover 'departmental enquiries' and that more attention be paid for teaching this subject.

**Reference :** Page 18 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Introduction of compulsory First-Aid Fire Fighting Training in Higher Secondary Classes in Schools**

29. The Committee recommended at the 14th meeting that Compulsory Training in first-aid fire fighting be introduced at the higher Secondary level in Schools and that this subject may be taught alongwith regular courses for at least one period in a week. The committee further recommended that the subject 'First-aid Fire Fighting' should include operation of first-aid fire fighting equipments, such as extinguishers and sand water buckets and first aid treatment of burn injuries as well as escape from fire in cases where the normal means of escape is blocked. The Committee suggested that, for this purpose, schools and colleges may contact the local Fire officer for advice and guidance in drawing up syllabus of training and the method of imparting the instructions. It would also be useful to train members of the teaching staff regularly in first-aid fire fighting so that they could in turn impart instructions to the students.

**Reference :** Pages 18 and 44 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Recognition of Courses conducted at the Ministry of Defence Institute of Fire Research**

30. This proposal was considered at the 14th meeting. The Committee was of the view that the existing courses at the Ministry of Defence Institute of Fire Research are primarily lower than the Sub-Officer's Course at N.F.S.C. However, a decision on this subject may be taken only after the question of opening or recognising Regional Training Centres for the Sub-Officer's Course has been examined and more data is available.

**References :** Pages 19 and 48 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Delegation of Power to the Director, N.F.S.C. to Condone the Deficiencies in Qualifications for Admission to various Courses at the College**

31. The proposal was considered at the 14th meeting. The Committee recommended that each case should be examined on its own merit by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the present practice of referring all such cases to the Ministry should continue.

**Reference :** Pages 19 and 50 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Venue for Seminar Conducted by the NFSC**

32. This subject was discussed at the 14th meeting. The Committee was of the view that the Seminar for Sr. Fire Officers, conducted by the N.F.S.C. was not for the benefit of the College alone. The committee, therefore, recommended that it should be held by rotation in different places, viz., Mumbai, Calcutta and Delhi, provided the host State made necessary arrangements for accommodation of participants and provided all facilities for holding the Seminar.

**Reference :** Page 20 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Relaxation in age limit for Admission to Divisional Officer's Course**

33. This subject came up for consideration at the 14th meeting. The committee recommended that the upper age limit for admission to the Divisional Officer's Course at N.F.S.C. should be retained as 45 years and that, in special cases, where the promotion of an Officer above 45 years of age depended on his passing the Divisional Officer's Course, the matter may be referred to Ministry of Home Affairs for relaxation of the upper age limit.

**Reference :** Page 19 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Production of Training Films**

34. The committee recommended at the 14th meeting that the Govt. of India may consider production of training films on fire protection to suit Indian conditions.

**Reference :** Page 20 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Nominations for Courses at the N.F.S.C.**

35. It was brought to the Council's notice at the 25th meeting that States/Organisations were not sending the nominations for various courses on time, as indicated in the calendar of NFSC. This created problems for the college authorities in accommodating the late comers. The council recommended that the States/UTs/Organisations should send their nominations three months in advance.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Reporting by Candidates for various Courses at N.F.S.C.**

36. The problems created by late reporting of candidates at the NFSC was brought up by the Director, N.F.S.C. at the 14th meeting. The Chairman directed that all concerned may be asked to ensure that candidates sponsored by them for various courses at NFSC reported for training well in time.

**Reference :** Page 21 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Rules relating to Special Courses for Industrial Establishments**

37. The committee recommended at the 14th meeting that the minimum experience required for admission to the special industrial courses should be two years except in cases where the candidate has an equivalent experience in Armed Forces or the Police Service. The Committee further recommended that all cases where the candidates do not have the requisite experience may be referred for consideration to M.H.A.

**Reference :** Page 21 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Possession of Driving Licence by Officers**

38. At the 15th meeting, the Committee accepted the view that possession of driving licence for heavy vehicles by officers was essential not because, they were expected to drive the fire appliances themselves, but because, in the course of their normal duties, they were expected to test fire appliances for which a heavy vehicles driving licence was essential.

39. At the same meeting, it was later pointed out by the Director, NFSC that Fire Officers were also required to drive fire appliances during an emergency. This view was accepted by the Committee.

**Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 15th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Fire Prevention Course at N.F.S.C. - Eligibility of Security Officers**

40. It was decided at the 20th meeting to recommend that Security Personnel of a certain rank should be made eligible for admission to the existing course at NFSC.

**Reference :** Page 11 of the minutes of the 20th meeting of S.F.A.C.



#### **Introduction of Tutorial Classes at N.F.S.C.**

41. It was decided at the 16th meeting that the Director, N.F.S.C. may detail instructors for about an hour or so every day to help the trainees in their studies, but no fee should be charged for this facility.

**Reference :** Page 11 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Introduction of the Subject "Public Relations" in the Curricular of NFSC Courses**

42. It was decided at the 19th meeting to include the subjects "Public Relations" in the curricular of Divisional Officer's and Station Officer's courses at the NFSC and "Man Management" in the Divisional Officer's Course.

**Reference :** Pages 13 and 19 of the minutes of the 19th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Physical Standards for Trainees at NFSC**

43. It was recommended at the 17th meeting that no physical standards should be prescribed for admission to the various Courses at the NFSC for candidates already serving with fire brigades. They must, however, produce a fitness certificate from the prescribed medical authority. Existing physical standards should, however, be retained for private candidates seeking admission to the Sub-Officer's course:

**Reference :** Page 5 of the minutes of the 17th meeting of S.F.A.C.

44. At the 19th meeting, it was reiterated that all candidates detailed for training at the NFSC must be subject to medical fitness tests before being sent for a course as the strenuous activities could have serious results on an unfit person. Height and weight need not be insisted upon in the case of departmental candidates.

45. It was also agreed at the 19th meeting that the Director, NFSC should have the authority to return unfit persons to their sponsoring organisations. Medical examination at the college should be carried out only in doubtful cases.

**References :** Pages 16 of the minutes of the 19th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Enhancement of Tuition Fees for various courses at the NFSC**

46. The question of enhancement of tuition fees at the college was taken up for consideration at the instance of the Director, NFSC at the 22nd meeting. In view of the fact that the present scale of fees were fixed about 20 years earlier and there had been an overall increase in costs in all spheres. The Committee recommended enhancement of fees. It was further recommended by the Committee that, subject to approval of the Govt. of India, the enhanced rates of tuition fees be charged from 1st January, 1982.

**Reference :** Pages 18 and 19 of the minutes of the 22nd meeting of S.F.A.C.

47. The Govt. of India approved the scale of fees as given below and intimated the same to the State Govts. etc. vide MHA letter No. VI-14022/21/82-DGCD(F), dated 24.09.82. The revised fees were to take effect from 1st January, 1983.

**Reference :** Page 7 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Revised Scale of Fees w.e.f. as Approved by the Govt. of India**

S. No.	Name of Course	Duration	Fees for Govt. sponsored Candidates		Fees for other trainees	
			Existing Rs.	Revised Rs.	Existing Rs.	Revised Rs.
1.	Sub-officer's Course	25 weeks	30.00	60.00	90.00	180.00
2.	Station Officer's and Instructor's course	22 weeks	40.00	80.00	200.00	400.00
3.	Divisional Officer's Course	22 Weeks	60.00	200.00	60.00	600.00
4.	Fire Prevention course for production Engineers, Factory Inspectors	6 weeks	75.00	300.00	150.00	900.00



#### **Deputation Abroad of Officers of NFSC**

48. The Committee recommended at the 14th meeting that the Government of India may consider deputation of officers from amongst the Training Staff at the NFSC to other countries on study tours. At the same time, advantage should be taken of the various technical aid plans and the possibility of deputing officers from fire services in the Central Ministries/States/UTs, for similar study tours, may also be considered.
- Reference :** Page 20 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.
49. The question of sending fire service officers for training abroad again came up for discussion at the 15th meeting. The Committee decided to make a positive recommendation to the State Governments that fire service officers should be sent for advanced training abroad whenever possible.
- Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 15th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Training of Selected Senior Fire Officers in Administrative/Personnel Courses**

50. The Council recommended at the 23rd meeting that Senior Fire Officer, should be afforded facilities for training in Public Administration/Management courses.
- Reference :** Page 13 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Instructors for the NFSC**

51. It was suggested at the 23rd meeting that all sponsoring Authorities may be asked to give an undertaking to make available the services of Training Officers as Instructors at the NFSC for a period of 2 years following their training and that such an undertaking should be included in the application form itself. It was decided that the States/Ministries and other Fire Service Authorities be addressed by M.H.A. for implementation of this recommendation.
- Reference :** Page 16 of the minutes of the 23rd meeting of S.F.A.C.
52. The problem of finding suitable instructors for the NFSC was once again discussed at the 24th meeting. The Chairman was of the view that the staffing pattern at the College should be reviewed so that, instead of the present system under which the Staff once recruited remain at the College for long years of service with consequent danger of stagnation and loss of interest, instructors are inducted into the college for a period of 2 to 3 years from active operational fire services and, after serving the college for this period, they go back to their respective fire services. He expressed the hope that the Heads of Fire Services will ensure that the services of experienced suitable officers under them are promptly made available for instructional duties at the college, as and when requested for.
- Reference :** Pages 15 and 16 of the minutes of the 26th meeting of S.F.A.C.
53. It was recommended at the 28th meeting that before admission to D.O. Course at NFSC, the trainees should be asked to give undertaking that they would serve the NFSC for some periods as guest lecturers.
- Reference :** Item No. 26 of the minutes of the 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - Page No.8.

#### **Instructional Duties of Officers detailed for Study Abroad under Colombo Plan/Scapp/Ittec. etc.**

54. The shortage of Instructors for the NFSC was again discussed at the 25th meeting. The Council recommended that the college, which was meant for Training Officers of the Fire Services of the country, should also be helped by the fire officers in conducting the courses and, as such, the State Govts. ought to spare officers who become specially qualified by attending foreign courses on which they were deputed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, for instructional duties at the college at least for 2-3 years as and when requisition is sent by the Director, NFSC. If any State fails to provide such assistance, the MHA should consider debarring nominees from such State for foreign training for a period of five years.
- Reference :** Page 9 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Feedback for NFSC Courses**

55. The Chairman expressed the view, at the 24th meeting that the college should evolve a suitable format for distribution amongst the trainees periodically so that they can give free and frank opinion about their

assessment of training, like the quality of instructions, library facilities; boarding, lodging and recreational facilities provided, etc. This will help taking remedial measures where necessary.

**Reference :** Page 16 of the minutes of the 24th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Special Course on High-rise Building Fires**

56. At the 24th meeting, a proposal for starting a special course on high-rise building fires was examined. It was decided that such a course was very much desirable and that the course be conducted by the Bombay Fire Brigade. The Course should be of one week's duration. The level of entry to this course should be Divisional Officers or equivalent.

**Reference :** Page 16 of the minutes of the 24th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Fire Service Training Matters**

57. A number of fire service training matters were discussed at the 26th meeting. The Council decided on the following action to be taken :-

- (i) A Directory of Fire Service Training Institutions should be prepared.
- (ii) The possibility of conducting the Sub-Officer's Course and other Courses at the Regional Centres in states/C.I.S.F. etc. should be examined.
- (iii) Quota for private candidates (open market candidates) given admission to the NFSC Courses through competitive examination, should be increased.
- (iv) Admission procedures for Sub-Officer's Station Officer's and Divisional Officer's Courses at NFSC should be reviewed and streamlined.
- (v) Fire Safety Training needs of the country should be assessed.
- (vi) The question of recognition of fire fighting courses conducted by the various fire training institutions in the country should be considered.

**Reference :** Pages 1 and 2 of the minutes of the 26th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Setting up of Training Wing in Fire Services - Provision of Audio-visual Aids**

58. At the 15th meeting, the Committee recommended that, to ensure uniformity of training in the various fire services, the following action should be taken :-

- (a) The Director, NFSC should send copies of syllabus, etc. to all concerned.
- (b) The fire services should be advised to borrow films on fire prevention and fire fighting from foreign embassies, and
- (c) A list of films on fire fighting and fire prevention should be sent to the Member-Secretary by the Director, NFSC. The Member-Secretary would then circulate it to all members of SFAC.

**Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 15th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Training Facilities for the Lower Ranks**

59. This subject was discussed at the 16th meeting. The Committee was of the view that it was essential that each Fire Service provided training facilities for lower ranks so as to ensure continuous training of such ranks. It was suggested that those fire services which did not have their own training facilities for lower ranks should take advantage of the facilities available in the neighbouring States.

**Reference :** Pages 10 and 11 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Introduction of Fire Drills in Schools**

60. This proposal was considered at the 14th meeting. The Committee was of the view that students would benefit if they could be made fire conscious from the childhood. In the Committee's opinion, it would be advantageous if the children could be simultaneously taught about the fire hazards and fire safety also in the

schools. The Committee, therefore recommended that this subject may be further examined in consultation with the Ministry of Education and, as far as possible, efforts should be made to implement it through the Department of Education in each State/U.T.

**Reference :** Page 20 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Special Training Course on Hazardous Chemical Material**

61. It was suggested at the 28th meeting that a special course may be organised for personnel from the Industry on handling of hazardous chemical materials. DG (FASLI) was requested to prepare the syllabus/course material with the help of experts draw from TAC, LPA and NFSC, Nagpur and submit to the DGCD Unit for further necessary action.

**Reference :** Item No.46 of the Minutes of the 28th meeting of S.F.A.C. - Page No. 11.



## **16. FIRE STATIONS**

### **Standardisation of Fire Stations**

1. Standardisation of Fire Stations in India was Considered at the second meeting. The members were of the view that it would not be possible for any particular Fire Station to be standardised since that would depend upon the lay-out of the plan in each individual case. They decided to recommend the minimum dimensions for each essential feature of a Fire Station, based on the duty systems in vogue, i.e. the 24th hours' continuous duty system and the shift duty system; layout and location of the plot; and the number of appliances at the Fire Station. The recommendations are given at Appendix '16-A'.
2. The Committee also recommended that administrative authorities should be asked to earmark sufficient land for Fire Stations in the Sub urban localities under development.

**Reference :** Pages 2 to 6 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Central Assistance for Opening New Fire Stations and for Construction of Quarters for Fire Service Personnel in the States**

3. It was pointed out at the 14th meeting that central assistance was given for the Civil Defence towns only for opening fire stations. The State Government has to meet the entire cost of construction of fire station and quarters for fire service personnel in their respective States.

**Reference :** Page 10 of the minutes of the 14th meeting of S.F.A.C.

### **Earmarking a plot for Fire Station when New Areas are developed**

4. The Committee decided at the 15th meeting that it might not be possible to earmark of 30m x 40m in built-up areas, but recommendation could be made to the States to earmark a plot as and when new areas are developed.

### **Provision of Funds for Additional Fire Stations**

5. A proposal was put to the Council at the 25th meeting to explore the possibility of owners of buildings in any area constructing fire station buildings at their cost, in consultation with the local Fire Chief and handing over the same to the fire service. The Council accepted the proposal as "Sound" and recommended that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Industry.

**Reference :** Page 7 of the minutes of the 25th meeting of S.F.A.C.

## **17. WORKSHOPS**

### **Standardisation of Workshops in the Fire Services**

Standardisation of workshop facilities in the Fire Services was considered at the seventh meeting. The recommendations of the Committee are given at Appendix '17-A'.

**Reference** : Pages 9 to 11 of the minutes of the Seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.

## 18. COMMUNICATION & ALARM

1. Provision of adequate facilities of communication and alarm systems is essential if the Fire Brigade has to be effective, because unless they receive the notification of an out break of fire speedily, even the best equipment may be worthless.
2. The Committee has made the following recommendations in this respect:-
  - (a) Installation of street fire alarm system may be considered, on the lines of those in use in Mumbai and Calcutta, for cities and towns with a population of 2 lakhs and over. As an alternative, the number of public call offices should be increased and such call offices should be located at strategic points.
  - (b) Further improvement could be achieved by introducing radio telephony for communication between the Fire ground and the Fire Station Control Room.
  - (c) Wireless facilities may be provided for the Fire Services as follows :-
    - (i) One 50 watt fixed control set with as many number of relays as necessary depending on the area to be covered, alongwith stand-by set should be provided for the main fire service control station. Arrangements should be also made for alternative electric supply in case of breakdown of the mains.
    - (ii) One mobile set, 15-20 watts, should be provided per fire Station plus a similar set for each staff car, control post van and emergency and rescue tenders.
    - (iii) 20 per cent reserve of mobile sets should be provided with a minimum of one such set.
    - (iv) Arrangements for maintenance of the equipment should be considered with the local Police Department.
    - (v) In case, arrangements for the maintenance of the equipment are not possible with the local Police Department, skeleton staff for day-to-day running maintenance should be appointed.
    - (vi) Co-ordination between local Police and Fire Service should be established by arranging to maintain a mobile set tuned to each other's frequency at the main control Station.
    - (vii) In cities where there are incidents of large fires, provision of walkie sets should be considered.
    - (viii) The State Police Wireless Officer should be consulted in formulating details of schemes for any particular area.
  - (d) The following should be provided for instructional purposes at the National Fire Service College:-
    - (i) One 50 watts fixed trans-receiver
    - (ii) Four, 15-20 watts mobile sets.
    - (iii) 20 per cent reserve for the mobile and walkie-talkie sets.
    - (iv) The required maintenance staff.
  - (e) Separate telephone connections for fire and other emergency services are essential and should be provided wherever these are not provided at present. Specific numbers allotted to such services should not be of more than 2 or 3 digits and should be very easy to remember. Calls on such numbers should also not be charged but these calls should be 'free'. The Director General of Posts & Telegraphs should be consulted whether it is possible to have one uniform telephone number for the whole country.
  - (f) For discontinuation of telephones, where it affects the public at large, such as saving of life and property, the Posts & Telegraphs Department may be requested not to take disconnecting action, particularly for telephones of Fire Services, ambulance-services and the like.

- References :**
1. Pages 3,7 and 8 of the minutes of the second meeting of S.F.A.C.
  2. Pages 13 and 14 of the minutes of S.F.A.C.
  3. Page 15 of the minutes of the seventh meeting of S.F.A.C.
  4. Page 13 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of S.F.A.C.



### **Organisation of Fire Service Communications**

3. A Sub-Committee was constituted at the 18th meeting to examine this subject. Report of the Sub-Committee is given at Appendix-18 to this compendium. The report of the Sub-Committee was generally accepted by the Committee except for the following :-
- (i) It was pointed out that street fire alarm systems had now become out-dated and that even in cities like New York, which also had this system, they were replacing the street alarm boxes with other means of communication. It was, therefore, agreed that it would be a waste of effort to examine the condition and possibility of renovating the existing street fire alarm boxes in Mumbai.
  - (ii) It was pointed out that if a Divisional control was also to be established in addition to the Central Control for each fire brigade, it would delay the turn-out of appliances. It was, therefore, decided to delete the provision of Divisional control room from the Sub-committee's report.
  - (iii) It was pointed out that the terminology concerning the use of radio telephones which was in vogue in the Army could be adopted by the fire service. This was agreed.
  - (iv) A point was raised that where the fire services were organised on State basis, it would be necessary to have a quick means of communication between the Headquarters of the State Fire Service and all other Districts where fire-stations would be established. Such communication should be either an effective telephone system or wireless. The need for such communication was accepted.
  - (v) A point was made that accommodation for the control room should not depend upon the availability of space. There are definite requirements of floor area for a control room which should be worked out and a positive recommendation made about the minimum accommodation requirements. This was accepted.
  - (vi) It was pointed out that determination of the compliment of fire appliances constituting the first turn out should not be left to the person on duty in the control room. The first attendance for each fire station area must be predetermined and everyone in the fire brigade should be fully conversant with it. This would obviate delay and confusion. This view was accepted by the Committee.
  - (vii) It was pointed out that it was neither practical nor necessary to provide conference room facilities on the control post van. This was accepted.
  - (viii) This question of providing a messenger for the control room was discussed at length. It was decided that although there was a need for an additional hand, such a person should not be a messenger. He could be one of the firemen who could assist the control room staff by rotation and should be replaceable by other firemen at the fire station.

## 19. WATER SUPPLY

1. The requirements of water supply for fire fighting were considered at the second meeting.

### For Urban Areas

2. The Committee recommended that 100 gallons per minute pumping capacity for every 1000 population, plus a reserve of one gallon per head, for fire fighting purposes only, may be provided for towns and cities having a population of two lakhs and over. While recommending this yardstick, the members observed that in view of the fact that factors, like accessibility to fire engines, types and construction of buildings, communication system and special fire risk in built-up areas would be required to be inspected by Fire experts, their recommendations should be considered separately at a later appropriate stage.
3. The Committee also recommended that where piped water supply was provided, the size of mains for industrial and residential areas should be as follows:-
  - (a) For industrial and commercial areas, the main pipe line should be not less than 6" in diameter and should be capable of supplying a minimum of 1000 gallons per minute at a pressure of not less than 10 lbs. per sq. inch.
  - (b) For residential areas, the main pipe line should be not less than 4" in diameter and should be capable of yielding a minimum of 500 gallons of water per minute at a pressure of not less than 10 lbs. per sq. inch.
4. The Committee also considered the question of augmentation of water supply in urban and rural areas and recommended that :-
  - (a) In urban areas, water fountains and ponds may be used for this purpose, and
  - (b) In rural areas, natural sources, such as well, ponds, creeks, rivers and rivulets should be made approachable by fire engines by suitable constructions.

### For Industrial Establishments

5. The Committee recommended that the number of gallons of water per minute required should be worked out as  $A+B+C+D$  divided by 1000, where A = the total area in sq.ft. of all floors, including galleries, in all buildings of the factory; B = the total area in sq.ft. of all floors and galleries, inclusive of open spaces, in which combustible materials are handled or stored; C = the total area of all floors over 50 feet above ground level; D = the total area of all floors of combustible construction.

Note : 

1. If any of the areas under B, C or D is protected by permanent automatic fire fighting installation, the same should be halved for the purpose of the calculation.
2. Where the fire risk involved does not require use of water, such areas may also be halved for the purpose of the calculation.

6. In addition, the water supply requirements should be based to give 100 minutes supply at the rate of the capacity worked out according to the above formula, 50 per cent of the water supply or 1 lac gallons, whichever it less, should be in the form of static supply. Where piped water supply is provided, the size of the mains should be not less than 6" in diameter and it should be capable of supplying a minimum of 1000 gallons per minute at a pressure of not less than 10 lbs. per sq.inch. The storage capacity should not be reduced under any circumstances.
7. The above recommendations should not be made applicable to Defence and Civil Aviation Installations because the requirements of such installations would be much higher.

Reference : Pages 6 to 8, 11 and 12 of the minutes of the sixth meeting of S.F.A.C.

8. The question of provision of adequate water supply for fire fighting again came up for discussion at the third meeting of the Committee. It was then recommended that minimum requirements recommended for industrial and commercial establishments and residential areas at the second meeting of the Committee should be adhered to, while laying down new mains, and the local Fire Service Officer should be consulted in all such cases to enable him to give his requirements after taking into consideration the special fire risks that are to be covered.

Reference : Page 11 of the minutes of the third meeting of S.F.A.C.

9. Once again, the question of consulting the fire Services while organising water works scheme in any town, municipality, factory and hills etc. came up for discussions at the tenth meeting. The members reiterated their



earlier recommendations, made at the third meeting, and recommended that the state Governments should be requested that whenever new water works schemes were being worked out, the authorities should consult and take the advice of the Local Fire Officers for laying water-hydrants and as far as possible take necessary steps.

**Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the tenth meeting of S.F.A.C.

10. The question of Central Assistance for augmenting the water supply for fire fighting in towns was brought up at the twelfth and thirteenth meeting. The members desired that the States should be helped in augmenting water supply even for normal fire fighting requirements. They were informed that the Centre could help the States only to supplement their resources of water supply if the states had first helped themselves to come up to the peace time requirements of water supply for fire fighting. Thereafter the case of each State for augmentation of emergency water supply would have to be considered separately depending on the magnitude of the problem. It was not possible to supply a large number of water tankers with capacities of 1000 gallons and above, and as such the States were advised to have electric water pump sets installed on deep wells to draw water during lean months.

**References :** 1. Pages 4 and 5 of the minutes of the twelfth meeting of S.F.A.C.  
2. Page 9 of the minutes of the thirteenth meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Provision of Static Tanks for Storing Water for Fire Fighting Emergency**

11. At the 15th meeting, the Committee expressed the opinion that irrespective of whether natural sources of water supply were utilised or water was provided through piped supply, it would be necessary to provide storage tanks at various locations in the towns.

**Reference :** Page 3 of the minutes of the 15th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Provision of Water Lorries to Supplement Water Supply during Fire Fighting**

12. The necessity of providing water lorries as supporting appliances was accepted at the 16th meeting. It was decided to recommend this equipment to the States. Detailed specification and capacity of such lorries was, however, left to the users. They could either select one of the water tenders out of the specifications already prepared by the I.S.I. or draw up their own specifications.

**Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 16th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Water Supply**

13. At the 17th meeting, it was suggested by the Chairman that Members might examine the recommendations of the 'Fire Protection Seminar' held by Ministry of Home Affairs on 19-20 November, 1974. Besides 'water for fire fighting', the Seminar had also deliberated upon 'Fire Safety in High-rise Buildings' and 'Indigenous Development of Fire Fighting Equipment'. The recommendations are given at Appendix '19A'. Recommendations made by the Seminar were endorsed by the Committee with slight amendment relating to IS: 6070-1971.

**Reference :** Page 6 of the minutes of the 17th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Code of Practice for Water Supply for Fire Fighting**

14. It was agreed at the 18th meeting that the I.S.I. Sectional Committee should be asked to formulate a separate code of Practice for water for fire fighting and that Committee might, in pursuance of I.S.I. procedure, appoint a Panel or Sub-Committee to do the ground work for such a draft code. The suggestion of I.S.I. that a cross reference be made to IS : 6070 after the new Code was published, was welcomed by Members.

**Reference :** Pages 6 and 7 of the minutes of the 18th meeting of S.F.A.C.

#### **Provision in the Existing Acts for Ensuring Adequate Water Supply for Fire Fighting Purposes**

15. It was decided at the 20th meeting that provision of adequate water supply for fire fighting might be emphasised separately in addition to the provision in the "ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FIRE SERVICES".

**Reference :** Page 9 of the minutes of the 20th meeting of S.F.A.C.

16. At the 21st meeting, the Committee again emphasised the urgency of providing water for fire fighting on a priority basis by the various States.

**Reference :** Page 8 of the minutes of the 21st meeting of S.F.A.C.