

DG NDRF & Civil Defence In spite of best efforts by the State Government and the Government of India, Fire Service is not getting due importance. It is therefore proposed to include Fire Service in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India.	disasters. The development of Fire Services in the country is not showing any headway to cope up with the growing responsibility of Fire Services as Multi Hazards Response Unit in the Disaster Management Response System due to lack of resources, expertise, training facilities, equipments etc. State Governments can not independently handle the modernization process. It is therefore necessary to include Fire Service in the Concurrent list of Constitution of India so that Central Government also equally shares the responsibility towards enactment of Central Act, providing Financial assistance, Cadre services, Advanced Training, Modern appliances and equipments etc. The Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. John, Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa will also look into this matter. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa
3. UNIFORM FIRE SERVICES ACT Assam Pondicherry Many States have their own Fire Service Act and rules. There is a need for uniform Fire Service Act and Rules all over the country. A committee may be formed to prepare the same considering the local conditions. Legal net work programme/guidelines should be made viz. regarding legal framework and its preparedness for national fire service code/act which deals in powers and activities of fire service in general all over the country. Implementation of legal aid by online interaction and Amendment of Indian Central Fire Service Acts and Rules (Unicode) may be considered.	Chairman stated that Model Fire Force Bill prepared by SFAC was circulated by the MHA way back in 1958 to the State Governments for adoption. Some States are yet to make their act. Photocopies of Fire Service Act and Rules of States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Karnataka and also the Model Fire Force Bill - 1958 were circulated to the members as guidance material. A need has arisen to incorporate the provisions of fire Service as an All Hazard Response Service in the Model Fire Force Bill/State Acts/Bills. After detailed deliberations, it was resolved that there is an urgent need to update the Model Fire Force Bill addressing all issues relating to Fire Services including their role in Disaster Management as Multi Hazard Response Unit including the provisions of National Building Code of India in the State Fire Service Act. It was resolved that the Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. John, Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa will also submit self contained report which should include Model Fire Service Bill and suggested action plan to get the Bill approved by concerned Legislative Bodies. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa
4. UNIFORM BUILDING CODE/RULES FOR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENTS AND ADOPTION OF THE PROCEDURE OF OBTAINING SELF-APPRAISAL/CHECK LIST ON FIRE SAFETY.	Chairman informed the members about the Chapter-IV of National Building Code of India, published by Bureau of Indian Standards, where in provisions for Fire Protection arrangements in all types of buildings have been mentioned in great details. The problems of fire protection arrangements in buildings can be sorted out if the State Governments incorporate these provisions in the local

Assam Andhra Pradesh It is suggested that a uniform building act/rules for fire fighting equipment etc. may be introduced in our country so that the State Fire Services can follow and implement it considering the local conditions. Andhra Pradesh Fire Service Department has prepared check-lists to facilitate self appraisal of fire safety by the owners and occupiers of 25 Hazard occupancies. The SFAC may recommend constitution of separate Committees of technical officers for evaluation and finalization of 25 check lists (Copies enclosed) and circulate them to States to facilitate compliance of mandatory fire safety system.	Building Bye-laws and in State Fire Service Act. A copy of the Checklist prepared by the Andhra Pradesh Fire Service for the self appraisal of Fire Safety Arrangements by the occupiers/owners was circulated to the members for information. It was felt that if the same is adopted by the State Governments, there will be lot of time saving in the issue of fire clearance for buildings. It was resolved that the Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. John, Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa will also look this matter. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa
II ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES Chandigarh 5. Fire services have been identified as technical first responders. Therefore, it is essential that the local fire stations be considered as focal points for Disaster Management. In view of this, suitable organizational structure needs to be developed. At each level in the organizational structure, starting from CFO to right up to Corporation level, the role/responsibility of Fire Service need to be clearly defined. As disaster management is a matter of saving life and property, a clear/transparent chain of command should be established at each level and answerable to the next higher authority. All of us have a great social responsibility. Thus, there is a need for transparent command structure.	Sri R. C. Sharma, Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service gave a presentation on the "Disaster Management scenario in Delhi". Chairman stated that due to the involvement of Fire Service in the Disaster Management Response System, need is felt to have proper organizational structure in Fire Service. Way back in 1976, SFAC recommended the Fire Service organizational structure (page 314, Appendix 30-B, of the Compendium of Recommendations of the SFAC published by DGCD). The recommended organizational structure is relevant even today. Members were of the opinion that in the existing structure there is no active participation of fire service specialists and fire officers serving in fire services at the decision making level. They are not getting adequate exposure in the new development and training. They felt that Fire Service is a specialized service with skilled manpower need to be motivated by improving their service condition including putting in place appropriate recruitments rules and improved standards of training. Some of the Members suggested merging Fire Services with the Police Services so that all round development can be achieved in man and machine. Chairman was of the opinion that, Fire Service has its own defined responsibilities in the context of Disaster Management. Fire Service Personnel, therefore, should have better working conditions, career prospects and vertical mobility and improved standard of Training. Members also felt that, there is scope for improvement in the Factories Act with regard to provision of Fire Safety. The Chairman said that considering its importance and critical role Fire Service is need to develop as an efficient and independent Service. He further stated that i) There should be an active participation of Fire Service

	officers at decision making level; ii) Fire Service officers should be promoted to certain level in hierarchy of rank structure of Fire Services; iii) Fire Service personnel lack adequate training and exposure to new developments of emergency response and hazard/disaster management. It was resolved to appoint a Committee to look into the Central Acts which directly or indirectly impugn upon Fire Safety, Disaster Management and other Central Act like Explosive Act etc. and prepare a proposal. The Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. John, Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa will also look this matter. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa
6. FIRE SERVICE AS AN ORGANISED SERVICE Goa, Jharkhand and Karnataka There is a need for All India Cadre of Gazetted Rank Fire Service Officers specially in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab in which the Fire Services are still under Municipalities. This will help in developing the person, profession and vertical mobility of Fire Service Officers.	Chairman stated that Fire Services do not have any organized cadre at National and at State level. In the Disaster Management, coordinated efforts at all level are required. The District Collector is the Coordinating authority. Members discussed related issues such as recruitment criteria, service conditions, and constitutional arrangements of Fire Service as a State responsibility in the country. Some of the members felt strongly about need to constitute All India Fire Service Cadre. It was resolved that the Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. John, Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa will also look this matter. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Goa
III MODERNISATION	
7. MODERNIZATION OF STATE FIRE SERVICES Orissa, Chandigarh, U.P., Meghalaya, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh Pondicherry Maharashtra Airport Authority of India With the rapid pace of Industrialization and Urbanization it is becoming difficult for the firemen to fight fires in complicated fire incidents, for want of modern tools and equipments. State Govts. are not in a	In this session following presentations were made :- i) Sri A.K. Kapoor, Director, CFEES, DRDO, Ministry of Defence gave a presentation on the "Halon Reclamation and Banking facility including the Halon alternatives need of R&D and Testing evaluation facilities in the field of Engineering". ii) Sri S. K. Dogra, Director, Tamil Nadu Fire Services gave a presentation on the Modernization of Fire Services. The Chairman informed the members about the modernization of State Fire Services. It is highly capital intensive efforts. A proposal of Rs.2000 crores is under active consideration of the Ministry to provide minimum requirements of fire service such as Fire Stations, Advanced Rescue Tenders, Rescue Tenders, Hazmat

position to meet the cost of these equipments. Central Govt. may consider helping State Fire Services with adequate money through Finance Commissions, Police Modernisation Scheme and proposed Fire Service Modernisation Scheme.

An Integrated Fire Service should have Research and Development cum Equipments Wing which will make case studies of various fire histories. It helps making advancement in the of field fire protection/ prevention and applications to advice state governments in the purchase of new technologically advanced equipment for the use in fire services according to their need.

Van, Water Tenders in state capitals, metropolitan cities, district headquarters and sub-divisional headquarters. All the existing twelve State Fire Training Centres will be upgraded and new Fire Training Centres will be established in the remaining 23 states/UTs.

There is a provision that upto 10% of Calamity Relief Fund may be utilized by the States for the procurement of search, rescue and evacuation equipments.

It was suggested to take up allocation of funds for Fire Services by XIIIth Finance Commission as was done with Xth and XI th Finance Commission should be considered. In this context, it was emphasized that states must give up-to-date information about their fund requirements on the basis of actual risk analysis at local level time to time to the Ministry.

Members felt that there is no clarity in role of Fire Services as first responders in Disaster Management. Fire Services are also not trained and equipped to take up its assigned role efficiently in disaster management.

Chairman viewed that Modernization is not just a matter of procuring equipments. A holistic approach is required to address the issue. First of all training has to be imparted to Fire Personnel in Search and Rescue. There is also urgent need to standardize the laws governing fire services and standardize their equipments in Fire Services to enable them to discharge their responsibility effectively in both natural and man made disasters.

The council felt that this is a very important issue therefore a committee should be constituted to look into this.

The Committee under the Chairmanship of Sri S. K. Dogra, IPS, Director, Tamilnadu Fire and Rescue Services with Sri H. S. Rawat (Airport Authority of India), Sri A. K. Kapoor, Director, CFEES, Dr. Jatin Nipun, IPS, IGP & Director, State Fire Service Organization, Assam as members was constituted to give holistic view on the matter and recommend on the Modernization of Fire Services.

Action : States/DGCD/MHA/Director, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services

IV EQUIPMENTS

8. PROCURING SPECIAL APPLIANCES FOR FIRE SERVICES:

Goa, Meghalaya

Chairman felt an urgent need to develop the norms for the special appliances and specifications of each and every item required in Fire Services including rescue equipments. SFAC has already laid down the norms for the equipments and manpower which need to be

Airport Authority of India The requirement of Special Appliances, Aerial ladders, Hazmat Vans, Rescue Tender, Advanced Rescue Tender, Emergency Vans etc. should be worked out for Fire Services in the States. These Appliances being high value equipments and the budget allotted by the State Governments are inadequate. It is proposed that these capital items should be procured through Central Govt. assistance.	reviewed. Identification of the equipments for the first responders in the specialized field of Search & Rescue, Hazardous Material Handling, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Flood Rescue, Medical First Responder, Basic Disaster Management and Fire Fighting has already been done by the DGCD and lists have been circulated to States. Council may like to suggest appropriate changes, if required.
9. STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR SPECIALISED EQUIP-MENTS. Chandigarh Disaster Management Response System is in the process of development in our country. Firemen need exposure to new technology. Seminars and workshops need to be held regularly which will help in creating more and more knowledge in the field. A committee of experts be constituted and assigned the task of standardization of disaster management equipments to keep pace with the international specifications giving due consideration to local geographical conditions. 10. ENLISTING FIRMS ON RATE CONTRACT FOR FABRICATION OF FIRE APPLIANCES AND NATIONAL LEVEL PRICE LIST FOR ALL TYPES OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENTS INCLUDING FOREIGN MAKE LIKE DGS&D Andhra Pradesh Assam, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh In the absence of an approved Rate contract, the fabrication of fire appliances is being done by the Firms quoting lowest rates. To avoid substandard fabrication, the SFAC should fix specifications and rates for Fabrication of various types of fire fighting and rescue vehicles to avoid : - Delay in finalization of tenders - To execute quality work. Many fire fighting appliances/ equipments do not have national level price list as done by DGS&D. If the price list of these equipments is finalized, the procurement	In the absence of proper specifications members expressed difficulties in the procurement of specialized Fire Fighting and Rescue equipments. Majority of the equipments are of foreign origin. Therefore there is an urgent need to develop indigenous specifications. Some members suggested the centralized procurement of these equipments and assistance for vendor rating, short listing of firms specifications, approval of rates and specifications for the fabrication and procurement of fire fighting and rescue items to avoid delay in finalization of tenders and to ensure quality work and suggested having DGS&D rate contract as is being done for various types of vehicles, office equipments by DGS&D. It was resolved to constitute a Committee comprising of Sri G. A. Bhatt, Director, J& K Fire Services as Chairman and Sri H. S. Rawat, Airport Authority of India, Sri G. C. Misra, Delhi Fire Service Sri D. K. Shami, Dy. Fire Advisor, Govt. of India and Sri J. Basnet, IPS, Director, Sikkim Fire & Emergency Services as members. The committee will go through the all aspects and submit the report. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/Director, Jammu & Kashmir Fire Service

procedure all over the country will become easy. This is urgently required.

V TRAINING

11. DISASTER RESPONSE MANAGEMENT COURSE BY THE NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE, NAGPUR AND STATE FIRE TRAINING CENTRES

Goa, Chandigarh, Bihar, Pondicherry, Uttaranchal, Mizoram

In order to enhance the skill and knowledge of the Firemen in search and rescue it is desirable to start specialized training courses at NFSC, Nagpur and State Fire Training Centers for the in service Fire personnel for effective response in disaster management.

Sri M.N. Reddy, IGP, Karnataka Fire Service, gave a presentation on the **"Critical Appraisal of Training for Fire Services and also financial resources for acquisition of equipments for Fire Service and Karnataka SAFE - 2010 : A perspective Plan for the Accelerated development in Fire and Emergency services in Karnataka"**.

The Chairman highlighted the need for training of fireman to enhance the skill to manage various emergencies for saving life and property as he need to respond on various emergencies of Search & Rescue, Hazardous Material Handling, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Flood Rescue, Medical First Responder, Basic Disaster Management and Fire Fighting.

A copy of the course curriculum and duration etc. for various courses as prepared by DGCD and circulated to States was given to the members for information. These courses are essential and need to be started in NFSC Nagpur and State Fire Training Centres immediately and need approval of SFAC.

It was resolved to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sri Alok Srivastava, Director General, Fire & Emergency Services, Andhra Pradesh with Sri S. Shamim, Director, NFSC, Nagpur, Sri S. L. Nagarkar, DIG, CISF and Sri G. A. Bhat, Director, J & K Fire Services as members to go through each course syllabus and other details and submit its recommendations. The committee will also formulate the National Fire Education Policy for the country. Fire professionals are experts not only in handling fire related accidents but also first responders in multi hazard emergencies. The education policy must indicate the minimum core competency required to handle the accident/hazards etc. for all ranks in fire service starting from fireman to head of fire service and essential qualification required for the assigned job.

Action : States/DGCD/MHA/ Director General, Fire & Emergency Services, Andhra Pradesh

12. FIREMAN RECRUITS TRAINING AT THE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

Goa

The training of Fireman at induction level is the responsibility of the respective States.

The Chairman informed that for the training of fireman there was need to have a standard syllabus. DGCD prepared the syllabus and circulated to all the States for adoption.

Some of the states do not have own training centres. It is sometimes not economically viable for the

Since many states do not have their own Fire Training Centres, the Firemen working in these States are forced to learn through their mistakes by hard ways. In view of the increasing technological incidents, it is becoming essential to upgrade their skills to make them effective and useful in actual situations. The induction level course of such firemen should be conducted at the identified Regional Training Centres to bring uniformity in training all over the country.	smaller states to invest in this. They can very well train their firemen in the neighbouring States on mutually agreed terms and condition. The Committee headed by Sh. Alok Srivastava, DG Fire Services, Andhra Pradesh will look into it and suggest further improvement, if any. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/ Director General, Fire & Emergency Services, Andhra Pradesh
13. RECOGNITION BY THE AICTE FOR THE NFSC PROFESSIONAL COURSES Goa The All India Council of Technical Education is an autonomous body of the Government of India for promoting the standard of technical institutions. It is mandatory for all technical institutions to have AICTE approval. The National Fire Service College conducts various types of courses, but none of their courses have AICTE approval. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop the infrastructure, facilities and get the AICTE approval so that it may gain the status of fire training institution of international repute.	The Chairman informed the members that Prior to the formation of All India Council of Technical Education, all the courses conducted by National Fire Service College have the recognition of Ministry of Human Resource Development as Certificate, Diploma and Advance Diploma in Fire Engineering like any other engineering diplomas/ qualifications. He further apprised the members about the approval of Government of Rs.103 Crores for the up gradation of NFSC, Nagpur and work for the 1st phase has already begun in 2005-06. The Committee headed by Sh. Alok Srivastava, DG Fire Services, Andhra Pradesh will look into it and suggest further improvement, if any. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/ Director General, Fire & Emergency Services, Andhra Pradesh
14. FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING TO EMPLOYEES OF GOVT. AND PUBLIC SECTOR Orissa It should be made compulsory for the employees in Government and Private Sectors to undergo short term courses in Fire Prevention and Fire Extinction to help develop regular fire force in these set ups to meet any emergency situation with greater promptitude.	Sri S.L. Nagarkar, DIG,NISA, CISF gave a presentation on the "Fire Training Institute of CISF". The Chairman clarified that It is the responsibility of the concerned Organization to train their personnel in fire service. It was decided that the Committee headed by Sh. Alok Srivastava, DG Fire Services, Andhra Pradesh will look into it and suggest any specific need of training to the fireman working in these industries. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/ Director General, Fire & Emergency Services, Andhra Pradesh
15. UPGRADATION OF REGIONAL FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING CENTRES AND CONDUCTING SPECIALISED TRAINING COURSES Assam, Maharashtra, Orissa, Mizoram,	The Chairman stated that the need for training is increasing day by day due to fast pace of industrialization and urbanization. National Fire Service College, Nagpur alone can not take the training responsibility due to its limited resources. A huge backlog of training was created in the past. Ministry of Home Affairs decided to identify some State Fire Training Centres having capability to run

Pondicherry All State Fire Training Centres be upgraded to meet further challenges in fire services. Every Regional State Fire Training Centre be given specific task pertaining to specialised Fire-fighting and rescue training to meet any other unforeseen eventualities. For example, Metro City Fire Services like Delhi and Mumbai be given task to develop specialized training for the response teams to handle situations not only in fire-fighting but also during building collapse incidents when high rise building becoming unsafe to enter for tackling the emergency situations. Some flood prone states be given task to evolve and implement the training modules in flood rescue. A Steering Committee under the aegis of DGCD be formed with Director NFSC as member secretary with 3 to 4 Head of State Fire Services as its members to get the modules prepared for implementation. North eastern States are prone to earthquake. Specialized courses on search and rescue from collapsed structure be started at Regional State Fire Training Centre, Guwahati. Similarly other specialized courses can also be started there, so that large number of firemen can be trained.	the courses of National Fire Service College, Nagpur to clear the backlog. Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati are running Sub-officers' course. There are other training centres such as Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Unnao, Ahmedabad which are also identified as prospective Regional Training Centres. These centres could not take any course due to inadequate infrastructure. Realizing the requirement and need Ministry has already included the upgradation of State Fire Training Centres at the cost of Rs. 3 crores each so that training to the fire service first responders can be imparted in search and rescue techniques in addition to fire fighting. The Committee headed by Sh. Alok Srivastava, DG Fire Services, Andhra Pradesh will look into it and suggest further improvement, if any. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/ Director General, Fire & Emergency Services, Andhra Pradesh
16. ALLOTMENT OF SEATS FOR DIFFERENT COURSES AT NFSC NAGPUR Meghalaya Seats for Meghalaya be fixed for different courses in NFSC, Nagpur.	Director, National Fire Service College was directed to allocate sufficient slots as per the requirement of State Government of Meghalaya in different courses at National Fire Service College, Nagpur. Action : Director, NFSC/Meghalaya
17. PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIVE AND TRAINING CDS Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu Fire & Rescue Services has launched the production of educative and training CDs. It is requested that Chennai may be chosen as an All India Centre for production of training/educative CDs and necessary equipment may be provided by Govt. of India through DGCD.	Sri G.A. Bhat, Director, Jammu & Kashmir Fire Service gave a presentation on "Managing rural fires in Jammu & Kashmir". Members desired that for the mass awareness programme on fire safety educative material is required to be produced by the Government. The Chairman informed the Members that DGCD has produced some publicity material for use by the State Fire Services. The same was appreciated by the public. More publicity material both electronic and printed will be produced during the current financial year and the same will be sent to States for use by the respective Fire Service. Members decided to identify the actual requirement

	and the quantity of Educative and Training CD's for Production. It was unanimously decided that the Committee under the Chairmanship of Sh. Alok Srivastava, DG Fire Services, Andhra Pradesh will look into the requirement of material for publicity material for creating mass awareness in fire safety in the country. Action : States/DGCD/MHA/ Director General, Fire & Emergency Services, Andhra Pradesh
VI MISCELLANEOUS	
18. FIRE PREVENTION WEEK U.P. Fire Services in the country are only concentrating on fire fighting. Due to rapid population growth, industrialization and urbanization loss to life and property is increasing day by day. There is a need to develop Fire Prevention Programme to reduce Fire incidents in the country. Fire Services remain busy in fire fighting work. They are not in a position to devote time in the month of April to observe Fire Service Week due to peak fire season. It is proposed to observe Fire Service Week in the month of February or in Festival season from 15th September to 15th October.	Members discussed in detail about the rescheduling of fire prevention week (14th - 20th April) as Fire Services remain busy during the period in fighting fires due to fire season. There were different opinion on this. 14th April is observed as Fire Service Day due to historical significance attached to the date. On 14th April 1944, a major fire broke out in Bombay Dock in which more than 66 firemen laid their lives. Since this is a very important matter concerning policy decision, the Chairman decided that it will be examined and the considered view will be conveyed to all concerned. Action : DGCD/MHA
19. PAY & ALLOWANCES IN FIRE SERVICES Rajasthan There is variation in Pay and Allowances to the staff and officers in States. It is proposed to bring uniformity at National level.	Since this is beyond the purview of SFAC, it was decided to drop the point. Action : Nil
20. INVOLVEMENT OF NGO'S TO CREATE PUBLIC AWARENESS Orissa NGO's functioning in the state may be utilized to make people conscious about fire hazards in their day to day activities by establishing close rapport with regular Fire force to minimize the number of fire accidents which are on an increasing trend. DGCD may provide adequate grant in aid	In the recent past fires in the schools and places of public assembly there were many deaths. All these deaths could have been avoided if the people are educated in basic fire safety precautions. Government alone cannot do this work. It was unanimously decided that NGOs may be utilized for creating mass awareness on fire safety to save avoidable damage to life and property. Action : States/DGCD

for this purpose.

21. **CREATION OF VOLUNTEER FIREMAN.**

Orissa

Number of fire service personnel are inadequate in the State which is prone to disasters and has passed through the traumatic experience of Super Cyclone of unprecedented magnitude. It is proposed that volunteers from public may be trained in fire fighting and rescue operation like territorial army to aid fire service personnel at the time of need.

Members were of the opinion that Fire Services in India should create Volunteer Fireman to help the regular services during the natural and man made disasters. These volunteer Firemen should be trained in basic fire fighting and rescue operations. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Action : States/DGCD

22. **SUBJECT DISASTER MANAGEMENT MAY BE INTRODUCED IN THE SYLLABUS OF HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL**

Bihar

Recent occurrences of fire in schools are forcing to include fire prevention courses and disaster management syllabus in the school.

The Chairman informed the Council that the CBSE is already having this subject in their syllabus.

Action : Nil

Chairman thanked the representatives of the companies who displayed their latest fire fighting and search and rescue equipments during the 31st Meeting of Standing Fire Advisory Council and he stressed the need to have dialogue with the industries, experts, associations and fire professionals. We should work together to help in the development of Fire Services in the country. Chairpersons of various committees were requested to submit their report latest by October 31st, 05.

The Meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks by Sri Vijay Shanker, Chairman.

PART-III

SPEECHES OF

- i) Dr. Y.S.Rajasekhra Reddy,
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Andhra Pradesh
- ii) Shri K. Jana Reddy,
Hon'ble Home Minister,
Andhra Pradesh
- iii) Shri Vijay Shanker,
Director General NDRF & CD

SPEECH OF CHIEF MINISTER ANDHRA PRADESH

It is a great pleasure for me to inaugurate the 31st meeting of the Standing Fire Advisory Council being held at Hyderabad at a very crucial juncture, as the country had witnessed a Tsunami disaster on 26 December, 2004 wherein 10,273 persons were killed, while another 5,823 people were missing and feared to be dead. 9 Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh were also affected by the Tsunami which claimed lives of 106 persons and caused damage to property worth 75. 27 crores.

2. (a) Our country had in the past witnessed major natural disasters including earthquake at Latur, Plague at Surat, landslide in UP Hills, Super cyclone in Orissa and earthquake in Gujarat. Recent spate in Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh due to release of water from Parichha River in Tibet has caused extensive damage to the infrastructure and properties in Himachal Pradesh.
(b) Andhra Pradesh, particularly the coastal districts have been consistently experiencing severe cyclones, storms, heavy rains/flash floods. 3792 persons were killed and property worth Rs. 18,000 crores has been damaged on account of natural disasters in Andhra Pradesh during the period 1990-2005.
3. Disaster is a high impact phenomenon, which has potential to wipe out years of development either in a matter of few minutes or hours or over an extended period of time. Disaster is being increasingly recognized to be major development issue in our country.
4. Although, all natural disasters cannot be prevented fully, their impact can be reduced with proper disaster management strategies and planning. Managing disaster consequences and linking the lessons learnt from that to the mitigation and preparedness planning, therefore, becomes crucial.
5. (a) The Government of India has constituted a National Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister and taken several steps to provide the requisite institutional and coordination mechanism. A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been constituted earmarking 8 Battalions of Central Para Military Forces which will be trained and equipped to function as specialised disaster response teams.
(b) Government of India has accorded sanction of Rs. 15 crores to upgrade the National Civil Defence College, Nagpur to convert it into an "Institution of Excellence". Sanction has also been accorded for an amount of Rs. 103.95 crores to equip the National Fire Service College, Nagpur for imparting training to effectively manage future disasters. Realizing that Civil Defence set up and Fire Services of the country are critical components of Disaster Management, the Central Government is actively considering proposals amounting to Rs. 327 crores for revamping of Civil Defence in the country. There is another project earmarking expenditure amounting to about Rs. 2000 crores for improvement and up gradation of Fire Services in various States of the country.
6. (a) Disaster management has been accorded a very high priority by Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government has constituted a State level committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary for monitoring the implementation of contingency plans for tackling Cyclones and Earthquakes and District level committees under the Chairmanship of District Collectors to ensure implementation of contingency plans relating to Cyclones and Earthquakes at the District level.
(b) Dr. MCR HRD Institute, Hyderabad and AM AP Academy of Rural Development, Hyderabad have been entrusted the responsibility of conducting Disaster Management Courses for various Government agencies discharging disaster management responsibilities. Government of Andhra Pradesh is examining proposal to modernize and upgrade the AP Fire Service State Training School and equip it to train Fire Service, Civil Defence Volunteer and Home Guards who act as First Responders in all disaster situations.
7. Our country has also experienced major manmade disasters including the Industrial disaster in Bhopal and disasters on account of Fire in Upahaar Cinema in New Delhi, Fire in a marriage functional hall at Srirangam and a School fire in Kumbhakonam both in Tamil Nadu and the recent ONGC Fire in Bombay High.

8. (a) Andhra Pradesh has also had its share of manmade disasters mainly on account of accidental out break of fire. During the past decade, 1382 persons have been killed and property worth 963 crores has been lost in 1.62 lakh fire accidents in Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh is concerned about the heavy loss of lives and properties in fire accidents. Government has instructed the District Collectors and Municipal Commissioners to take necessary preventive measures particularly in cinema theaters, High Rise Buildings and Large concentrations of thatched dwellings.
9. Government has initiated required remedial action on non-compliance of statutory provisions of fire safety law and besides fixing accountability on concerned authorities to ensure implementation of fire safety law/regulations, steps have also been taken to create required awareness amongst the owners/occupiers of High Rise Buildings to provide mandatory fire safety measures.
10. (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh has evolved a basic plan for Citizen-friendly Governance in A.P. for ensuring Transparency and accountability in the system and increase Public confidence in the administration. Government has also issued instructions to the Fire Department to issue fire NOC through e-Seva, an e-governance initiative of AP Government.
- (b) I am happy that the AP Fire Services has operationalised the basic plan for citizen-friendly governance and evolved a mechanism, for on-line receipt and processing of applications and inspection reports which will reduce the time frame for issue of Fire No Objection Certificates to 15 days as against 3 to 6 months at present.
11. (a) The role of the Fire Service in India includes extinguishing fires and protecting life and property in the case of fires. This role has changed dramatically over the last few years because of both external and organizational forces. The Fire Service now responds to hazardous material incidents, advanced emergency medical situations, high angle rescue and confined space rescue incidents, trench and collapse operations, underwater rescue and more.
- (b) In recent years, the requirements for fire safety cover have increased manifold, whereas the development of Fire Service has not made much headway. The fast pace of industrialization with the extensive use of hazardous materials and the increased construction of larger and taller buildings have multiplied the problems of fire fighting. The fire hazards are no longer confined to big cities and manufacturing centers.
- (c) Therefore, if the objective of ensuring safety of life and property in both urban and rural areas is to be realised, then a complete over-hauling of the Fire Service organisation is called for. The Fire Service need to be provided with adequate infrastructure and equipment for meeting the challenges posed by the advancement of technology and economic growth.
- (d) Also, in the immediate aftermath of any disaster, coordinated search and rescue efforts are critical for saving lives and property. The mobilization and deployment of trained personnel for search and rescue operations immediately is critical for the survival of disaster-affected victims. For this purpose, it is imperative that the districts and State level Fire Services are empowered for carrying out search and rescue operations immediately after a disaster. The enhancement of the search and rescue capabilities of the firemen for quick response will save many lives.
- (e) I would therefore like to urge the Standing Fire Advisory Council to undertake indepth deliberations and come up with concrete suggestions on measures required to develop Fire Services as Multi-hazard disaster response units.

SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE HOME MINISTER OF A.P.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Garu, Hon'ble MLA Mohd. Moazam Khan Garu, Chief Secretary Dr. Mohan Kanda Garu, Director General Civil Defence Sri Vijay Shanker Garu, DGP Sri Swaranjit Sen Garu, Special Chief Secretary, GAD Sri A. Raghotham Rao Garu, Principal Secretary Home Department Sri A.K. Shrivastava Garu, Delegates, Senior Officers and Members of the Press.

I am happy to be present here to preside over the inaugural function of the 31st Meeting of Standing Fire Advisory Council. On behalf of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, I extend a warm welcome to all.

- 2) I understand that the SFAC would be deliberating on complex issues and major challenges confronting the Fire Services in the country in a comprehensive manner with a view to finding ways and means for improving and standardising the response of Fire Services throughout the country.
- 3) Government of Andhra Pradesh accords a very high priority to the Fire Services and has taken several measures to improve its operational efficiency. Following re-organisation of the Department, sanction of 13 posts of Divisional Fire Officers, according gazetted status to the post of Assistant Divisional Fire Officer, each district now has a District Fire Officer and Assistant District Fire Officer. Government has also issued orders for filling up 31% of existing vacancies and Home Guards have been made available against remaining vacancies. Required relaxations have also been accorded to enable sanction of stagnation increments to the Driver Operators and Firemen which has considerably boosted their motivational levels and morale. During the financial year 2004-05, additional budget of Rs. 189 lakhs has been sanctioned for procurement of fire fighting and rescue equipment. Andhra Pradesh Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 500 lakhs for setting up the AP Fire Services State Training School.
- 4) Andhra Pradesh has 251 fire stations. 25 new Fire Stations already sanctioned are likely to be opened shortly.
- 5) Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a policy decision to sanction additional fire stations, in a phased manner in each of the 68 Assembly Constituencies which do not have even a single fire station, besides upgrading the existing fire stations in Hyderabad City, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati.
- 6) Since Government of India has proposed a project involving an expenditure of Rs. 2000 crores for upgradation of fire services in various States, I would like to request the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to allocate required funds in this project for upgradation- modernisation and expansion of AP Fire Services and recognize Andhra Pradesh Fire Service State Training School as a Regional Training Centre so that it becomes a Nodal Training Institute for training of Fire Service personnel, Home Guards, and Civil Defence Volunteers in disaster management.
- 7) During the past 3 years, fire accidents in AP have exhibited an increasing trend. Government has viewed with concern the rise in incidence of fire accidents and issued instructions to all District Collectors and Municipal Commissioners to ensure joint inspections by Fire, electrical, revenue and municipal authorities of all high hazard occupancies. Sustained fire prevention-measures and awareness campaign undertaken by the AP Fire Services has arrested the increasing trend in incidence of fire accidents. During the year 2004-05, there has been a 10% decrease in fire incidence and 13% decrease in loss of lives in fire accidents as compared to the year 2003-04.
- 8) The Fire Service Department has also streamlined and simplified the process of issue of Fire Clearance of High Rise Buildings through e-seva, as a part of e-governance initiative of Government of Andhra Pradesh, which I am sure will facilitate better compliance of fire safety law/regulations.
- 9)
 - (a) Fire safety measures prescribed in the National Building Code of India have been incorporated in the fire safety law/regulations being enforced in Andhra Pradesh.
 - (b) The Government has received representations seeking formulation of fire safety norms for information Technology Companies and Information Technology Enabled Service Companies keeping in view their specialised nature of functioning.
 - (c) Representations have also been received from Builders of High Rise Shopping Malls and

Multiplexes to prescribe specialised fire fighting and rescue appliances to overcome the shortcomings on account of non-availability of mandatory open space.

10. I request the 31st SFAC to deliberate and give concrete suggestions regarding fire safety norms for Information Technology Companies and Information Technology Enabled Service Companies and Multiplexes and Installation of specialised fire fighting and rescue appliances to overcome the shortcoming on account of non-availability of mandatory open space.

I further request the delegates to share their valuable experience and expertise and suggest (a) utilization of modern fire fighting equipments (b) innovation in fire fighting techniques in specialised high hazardous occupancies to render effective services and to ensure better fire safety for the citizens.

11. I hope that all delegates are comfortable with the facilities made available by us and wish that the two day deliberations during the conference on current challenges confronting the fire services in the country would be fruitful and immensely helpful in formulating new strategies.

JAI HIND

Address by DG, NDRF & CD

Inaugural Session

It is indeed a matter of great honour for the Fire Service fraternity that we have Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh amongst us at the inauguration of 31st Standing Fire Advisory Council Meeting. I, on behalf of Union Minister of Home Affairs, members of SFAC and on my own behalf welcome Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Hon'ble Home Minister Sri K. Jana Reddy for sparing their valuable time. Your presence also indicates the importance that the Fire Service. I extend warm welcome to Chief Secretary, DG Police and Principal Secretary (Home) Andhra Pradesh. I also welcome the distinguished guests, members of SFAC and members of the Media.

Fire Service is organized in the States and UTs under the State Acts. It is included in Schedule XII to be read with Article 243 of the Indian Constitution specifying provision of fire service to be the municipal function. In other words, if there is no Municipality, there cannot be a fire service in the general area as fire service exists only in urban areas. Fire hazards in urban and rural areas are assuming serious proportions with allround incremental development in the country. This calls for an urgent attention for availability of appropriately empowered, trained and equipped fire service keeping in consideration the terrain, topography and available resources of our country.

Ministry of Home Affairs renders technical advise to States/ UTs and Central Ministries on Fire Protection, Fire Prevention and Fire Legislation through Directorate General Civil Defence and Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC). Fire Service aims at saving life and property in case fire and fire related accidents and other emergencies. But in our country, in the absence of any organized mechanism for intervention on non-fire emergencies like rescuing trapped persons from collapsed buildings or victims of gas and industrial disasters, drowning cases, Fire Services are quite often pressed into to tackle many such non-specific emergencies. In fact in our country, Fire Services have been acting as Multi-Hazard Response Services without adequate training, equipment and also, without any legal basis.

The Fire Service need to be provided with adequate infrastructure and equipment for meeting the challenges posed by the advancement of technology and economic growth. Also, in the immediate aftermath of any disaster, coordinated search and rescue efforts are critical for saving lives and property. The mobilization and deployment of trained personnel for search and rescue operations immediately is critical for the survival of disaster-affected victims. For this purpose, it is imperative that the district and State level Fire Services are empowered for carrying out search and rescue operations immediately after a disaster. The enhancement of the search and rescue capabilities of the firemen for quick response will save many a lives. This can be achieved by developing the Fire Services as multi-hazard disaster response units.

State of Fire Services in our country is very poor. As against 70,868 fire stations as per Standing Fire Advisory Council norms, there are 1745 Fire Stations operating throughout the country under various municipalities and State Governments with 5149 fire appliances and vehicles manned by total 50,713 fire professionals. Besides, there are 278 Fire Stations operating in industrial sectors exclusively for the fire safety of the concerned industries, with a fleet of 1053 appliances and vehicles of various specifications manned by 13,335 fire personnel. There is a shortage of 97.54% fire stations, 96.28% fireman and 80.04 % fire fighting and rescue vehicles for the fire fighting and rescue purposes without calculating the deficiencies for role of fire services in the Disaster Management in Search & Rescue capabilities. Even the Urban fire services suffer deficiencies of 72.75% in fire stations, 78.79% in man power and 22.43% in fire fighting and rescue vehicles.

After Disaster Management was transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a review of the capabilities required to be put into place as well as the areas requiring intervention was undertaken. Base on this review a road map for future action plan for comprehensive vulnerability reduction was drawn up. One of the key areas identified in the road map drawn up by the MHA is enhancement of capabilities of the States to respond to disaster situations. Strengthening of the capabilities of the Districts and States in evacuation, search and rescue is identified as a priority area. It is envisaged that adequate strengthening and equipping of the fire and emergency services to carry out search and rescue would go a long way towards accomplishing the above objective. To achieve this objective a Rs.2,000 crores worth project to revamp Fire Service through out the country is under active consideration of the Central Government.

World over the fire services are used for search and rescue in all kinds of disasters. However, in India the role of fire services has been mainly limited to responding to fire related disasters. Neither are the fire services in India oriented to aiding civil authorities in disaster situations nor do they have the equipment for these tasks. In India there is a network of fire stations existing down to the sub-divisional level. However, there are some gaps as some sub-divisional Headquarters and District Head Quarters are not covered and it is proposed to fill these gaps and equip and train the personnel of the fire services for carrying out search and rescue in all types of disasters- so that they are converted into multi-hazard response units.

During 31st Meeting the Council will discuss following important issues relating to the fire service in the country :

- (i) National Commission for Fire & Emergency service
- (ii) Inclusion of Fire Service in Concurrent List of the Constitution of India
- (iii) Uniform Fire Service Act & Rules
- (iv) Uniform Building Code & Rules
- (v) Modernisation of Fire Services
- (vi) Other matters relating to fire service administration.

I once again thank you all for sparing valuable time.

Part – IV
PRESENTATIONS

THE AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN INDIA

- I. ENLISTMENT OF THE SUBJECT, FIRE PROTECTION AND CONTROL IN THE CONCURRENT LIST OF THE 7th SCHEDULE TO CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.
- II. SETTING UP OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES IN INDIA

31ST MEETING

**STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI**

4TH AND 5TH AUGUST 2005

VENUE SVP, NPA, HYDERABAD

**PRESENTATION BY : Dr. P.K.John, PH.DFI, Fire E. (UK)
DIRECTOR OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES GOA**

&

PRESIDENT – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE OFFICERS

THE AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN INDIA

BY DR. P.K. JOHN, PH.D.F.I.FIRE E (UK)

1. PREFACE

The fire service in India is more than two centuries old. During the pre-independence period, several fire bridges were established under the control of local bodies in various parts of the country. They were organized around the need to respond to fire incidents aims mainly at saving life and property of all the citizens within the jurisdiction of their responsibilities, more or less on the same pattern of the Country Fire Brigade in the U.K. The Metropolitan city of Mumbai was the first to start Fire Brigade Service in 1803, followed by Calcutta.

During the initial post-independence years, some efforts were made by the Govt. of India to re-organise fire services by convening a meeting of the expert committee in 1950, followed by Fire Chiefs Conference in 1955. In pursuance of their recommendation, the Govt. of India constituted the Standing Fire Advisory Committee in 1956 to examine the technical, organizational and other related problems concerning the Fire Service and makes recommendations to the Government. This is purely an advisory body comprising representatives of recognized fire services, now meeting for the 31st time since its inception. This recommendatory body could not make any substantial impact on the development and growth of fire services in the country, since many of the important and far reaching recommendations made in 1955 are yet to be implemented. Hence, it is to be admitted that after 58 years of independence, fire service in India has only stunted growth and lopsided development and largely remains heterogeneous in character, as there is no uniformity in administration and organisation in Fire Service.

CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION IN RESPECT OF FIRE PROTECTION AND CONTROL

The backwardness of fire service is largely due to its peculiar and not so well defined constitutional position for governance. In order to facilitate proper administration on various aspects, subjects have been distributed between the Union Government and the State Government for legislative purpose for making laws under articles 246, which is reflected in the 7th schedule of the constitution viz. (1) Union List-97 (2) State List -66 and (3) Concurrent list -47, but the subject fire protection does not figure in any of the 7th schedule to the Constitution of India. The problems created by or relating to fire are generally delegated to State Government responsibilities. By virtue of 74th amendment, the word Fire Services has been reflected in the Schedule 12 to be read with article 243 W specifying it to be a municipal function. There are major States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, where Fire Services are controlled by the local bodies. Poverty ridden Municipalities cannot establish, leave alone maintain and develop fire service as a service delivery organisation. In fact it turns out to be self defeating provision in the constitution for developing fire service. As a result 70% of the population who live in villages do not have fire protection services.

Further it is also seen that the control and protection of life and property is treated as part of maintenance of public order, which is a State duty. With the existing heterogeneous set up of Fire Service, it has not been possible to introduce legislation both at Central and State level for uniformity in organisation, administration and effective implementation of fire protection and safety measure, not has it been possible to integrated fire safety requirements in developmental efforts at the national level.

RENAMING THE FIRE SERVICE AS FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE

- 1.5 The society and the requirements, it place on Fire Service have changed enormously, but the Fire Service as an institution has not changed in turn since it is organised around the need only to respond to fire incidents which makes up no more than 25% of its total activities and so it is not now, and will not in future be, the dominant activity,. Fire Service therefore, requires a major reform in terms of its functions, legislative packing and management and it needs to be planned carefully and continuously reviewed. A radical programme of reform is required to change the existing fire service into a modern service delivery institution, designed to improve all germane aspects of community safety more focused on prevention rather than intervention. It is imperative to bring about a paradigm shift in the approach and role of Fire

Service for a wider role and re-christen it as Fire and Emergency Services. Hence, there is a need to review the constitutional position in respect of fire protection and control services so as to include the subject Fire Protection Service in list 3 Concurrent list for the following reasons :-

ENLISTMENT OF THE SUBJECT, FIRE PROTECTION AND CONTROL IN THE CONCURRENT LIST OF THE 7TH SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

- 2.1 As per the 74th amendment to the Constitution of India, any corporation and municipalities are empowered to set up Fire Services whereas 70% of the of India's population resides in villages, but no such provision is made in Xith Schedule of the Constitution of India dealing with Panchayats. Fire Protection is a basic human need, which should not be relegated to municipalities as the poor villagers have to pay exorbitant charges for use of Fire Services for protection of their life and property during exigencies and at times they pay this sum by obtaining loans. On the other hand their counter parts in municipal areas do not pay anything for the use of Fire Service. Depriving villagers from this critical facility is against the letter and spirits of the Constitution of India, which speaks of equality and social justice.
- 2.2 As per the directive principles of State policy, it shall be the endeavor of the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forest and wild life of the country – Article 48A & 49 speak for protection of monuments and places and objects of national importance. Planning for adequate fire protection arrangements need to be made therefore a part of the overall Civil Defence plan for which center is the guiding and coordinating authority. The expenditure towards these efforts should be shared between the Central and State Governments on equal basis. Besides it will facilitate organised efforts at National and State level for making and public aware of the nature of fire hazards and need for observing basic fire prevention measures during peace and war time alike. Enlisting fire service in the concurrent list therefore makes eminent sense.
- 2.3 As it is, the Centre has a direct responsibility in the matter of training Fire Service personnel in as much, as Union agencies and Institutions, for professional, vocational or technical training including the training of Police Officers are placed under item 65 of the list 1 in Union List. Hence, it makes sense to include professional service like Fire Service as a whole in the Concurrent list.
- 2.4 There are major services in the central Government Ministries/departments and therefore it is appropriate that the subject of fire is brought under the Concurrent List. As there is an urgent need for legislation both at Central and State level to ensure uniformity in administration and effective implementation of fire safety measures in various sectors.
- 2.5 Since protection of life and property from ravages of fire is a national responsibility which is vital for consolidation of gains accrued from the national development plan, a more rational approach to the problem will be to have this responsibility shared by the Central as well as State Government.
- 2.6 Fire prevention/safety is a responsibility of any civilized society. Subjects like social security and social insurance, employment and unemployment included at item 23 and whereas education including technical education, vocational and technical training of labour is reflected in the Concurrent list item 25, while the subject of far greater national significance life protection of life and property from the threat of fire has been left out.
- 2.7 The constitutional ambiguity of the subject Fire Protection and Control is a serious lapse for a developing country like India for progressive industrialization. Fire and explosion are the major threat for any industrial disasters, which needs comprehensive study and risk evaluation which is technical and professional in nature. There are public sector undertakings with the partnership of Central Government as well as State Government. As Fire does not discriminate Central and State PSUs for safety precautions, it is advisable that the subject is brought under the Concurrent list for enforcement and legislative purpose.
- 2.8 Fire service had a major Budget head earlier viz. 260 Fire Protection and Control, however, the same has been clubbed up with other administrative services. As a result, discussion in the legislative Assembly about the subject Fire Protection & Control is often by passed during Budget sessions of the Assembly, unless there are serious mishaps on the day of Budget discussion. Fire Services do not get

adequate attention for improvement and development.

- 2.9 Fire Service is deemed as a State subject under maintenance of Public Orders; which do not provide legitimate ground for proper development since Fire Service to the community are placed under the control of local bodies under section 243W. A service delivery organisation like Fire & Emergency Service ought to have been organised to take on the responsibilities as a dependable State emergency response force for all types of fire and non-fire emergencies including response for Arson Terrorism and disaster management. In the larger context of urbanization and industrialization, inclusion of Fire Protection and Control in the concurrent list makes greater sense.
- 2.10 Disasters and Fires do not have any geographical barriers. Therefore, it would be appropriate if it is included in the Concurrent List for the safety, security and welfare of the people in the country, particularly in view of the recommendation of the High Powered Committee on Disaster Management to strengthen and streamline and develop the fire and Emergency Services in the country.

3. SETTING UP OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

The role of Fire Service is not just limited to being a fire fighting service as generally perceived but it also plays the role of a disaster preventive agency especially in urban areas. It can provide basic rescue and search service and can also co-ordinate in event of a disaster situation with other agencies like Police and Health Service and work in conjunction with them. The recommendations of the High Powered Committee of Disaster Management regarding revamping Fire Service are as follows :-

- a) The appointment of a National Fire Service Commission to suggest the reorganization of Fire Services to cope with the challenges posed by the technological advancement during peacetime and war situations.
- b) Formulation of a National Policy on Fire Preparedness in Rural and Urban Areas.
- c) The provision of a comprehensive legislative backup to the Fire Services to enforce fire regulations.
- d) The risk mapping of cities and industrial towns and the norms for fire protection levels in such areas.
- e) Review of training standards and equipment requirements.
- f) Planning of Fire Safety programme for the public.
- g) Planning of fire prevention and protection in slums and shanty towns.
- h) To review provisions of the model Fire Service Bill.

We have National Commission for almost all special case groups. Hence, it is very important set up a Commission in line with the National Police Commission as its Prime function should be to review, assess and monitor on a continuing basis, the role and performance of fire service in view of the new role assigned to fire service in the context of Disaster Management as first respondent for all hazard response purpose. The Commission should be set up and entrusted with the following terms and references.

- 3.1 To examine in depth the organizational set up, their role and functions and recommend ways and means to re-structure them with a view to achieve maximum possible uniformity and efficiency.
- 3.2 To examine the pay structure, condition of service, personal matters, medical standards, career path, which have bearing in maximum efficiency. They should have access to cadre service and be able to develop their full potential.
- 3.3 Managing Fires is more technical than perceived. In order to examine the adequacy of training methods and recommend measures for improvement and the reward structure based around integrated professional development schemes with career path for new entrants and
- 3.4 To examine the existing legal provisions if any on fire service matters and recommend additional legislation at Central and State level for better administration of the service equipping them suitably to develop as a dependable civil emergency force of the State for all types of natural and man made disasters.

- 3.5 To examine present state of preparedness of Fire Service in the country and recommend measures for modernisation with a view to enable the fire service to meet new challenges of technological advances.
- 3.6 To examine the existing safeguard if any against health and accident hazards faced by the members of the profession and recommend improvement.
- 3.7 To recommend suitable steps to intensify the fire safety awareness programme among masses and to develop the force as a disaster preventive agency in urban areas.
- 3.8 To recommend measures for subjecting fire service for periodical inspection by competent professional authorities to ensure standard of efficiency at par with Medical Council of India.
- 3.9 To examine adequacy of fire fighting equipments provided as per the Standing Fire Advisory Council norms in view of the added responsibilities for urban search and rescue services.
- 3.10 To examine the progress made in the field of Research and Development and to intensify the efforts to cope with the requirements of the protection service to keep in pace with the technological progress..
- 3.11 To examine the feasibility for providing grant-in-aid for development of Fire Service from the Insurance amount collected by the respective States in line with the recommendation made by the Sarkaria Commission for Railway passenger fare.
- 3.12 To examine problems of financing the services for modernisation and suggest schemes for locating adequate resources for improvement of fire service and maintain them in high standard of efficiency.

In view of the foregoing, we should have Fire Service Commission to look into the problems besetting the development of fire services so that whole host of problems that are being faced by the Fire Services in the country, to whom we owe a great deal, are solved. The future fire service will have clear and accountable lines of direction and management.

MODERNISATION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

S.K. Dogra, IPS, Director, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services

If we were to select one word which most frequently figures during the discussions in our fire and rescue services, we would, without any doubt, come up with the word "modernisation". No conference, no review meeting, no discussion --- not even a telephonic conversation between two officers --- seems to be complete without a mention of the need for modernisation of our fire and rescue services. When I began to prepare for this presentation, therefore, I started with an introspective analysis of what goes on in our minds when we talk of modernisation. I realised that in our minds there is an entrenched antithesis between what is modern and innovative on the one hand and what is ancient, traditional, and follows the beaten track on the other. Our concept of modernisation also derives from the belief that over the centuries there has been and is still continuing to be a gradual, progressive evolution which results in the emergence of better and better equipment, methods of operation, techniques of training and systems of communication which can be used for improving our effectiveness and efficiency. In other words, the concept of modernisation derives from the deeply entrenched notion that "THE LATEST IS THE BEST".

When we look back at the history of modernisation in our fire and rescue services, or, for that matter, in any fire and rescue service in the world, we find that three approaches to the task of modernisation can be identified:

- 1) Reactive Approach
- 2) Comparative Approach, and
- 3) Proactive Approach.

The reactive approach to modernisation is the result of the society's reaction to one or more incidents. Thus, a fire in Upahar Theatre leads to a re-look at the safety rules and laws; a fire in a school in Kumbakonam leads to fire-certification system in schools in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere; a devastating earthquake in Gujarat results in India's first ever Disaster-management Act; and we are all familiar with the steps taken in the USA in the wake of 9/11. In our country with its limited resources where various demands are tied up in a cut-throat competition, it has most often been the reactive approach to modernisation that has been most prevalent and has often succeeded best.

The comparative approach to modernisation comes into play when we get an opportunity to interact with another fire-service. Bomb blasts occur in the London Underground. Our television screens show well-trained London fire personnel moving around in well-equipped vehicles. We ask ourselves, "Why can't I build my brigade into a similar type?" An officer visits Singapore Civil Defence Academy and returns with the wish that he should transform his own state training centre into a similarly well-equipped training academy. The sense of comparison under such circumstances becomes the motivating force for modernisation.

The Proactive approach to modernisation is based on anticipation of situations and advance planning. Such an approach signifies the ideal set-up which does not wait for tragedies to occur before it springs into action. As leaders in our own respective states we need to play a role in building up a culture of such proactive modernisation.

I started by saying that modernisation is the implementation of the latest --- latest techniques, latest technology, latest communication systems and so on. But what are the objectives to be achieved through modernisation?

Any organisation aims for the attainment of certain basic goals and so does a fire and rescue service. These goals are:

- ✧ Effectiveness
- ✧ Efficiency
- ✧ Ability to handle major crises, and
- ✧ To achieve all this at minimal costs.

Effectiveness is the capability of an organisation to satisfy the social need for which it was created. The effectiveness of a fire service lies in its capability to extinguish different types of fires. The effectiveness of its rescue wing lies in its capability to rescue persons trapped in hazardous situations.

Efficiency connotes speed, promptness and propriety of methods. An efficient service carries out its tasks in a neat and immaculate rather than shabby and unprofessional manner.

A force must not only be effective and efficient during normal times, but should also be capable of handling sudden and big crises, such as a Tsunami or an earthquake or a cyclone or multiple blasts.

To complete the picture, we must say that all these objectives must be achieved at minimum material and human costs to the society. The material cost is incurred in the procurement and maintenance of equipment. Human cost is due to recruitment, maintenance of personnel and the loss of life and limb due to accidents.

These objectives have been beautifully summed up by Mr. Bill Manning, Editor of Fire Engineering, in these words:

"The ultimate objective of the fire-chief is to deliver the highest level of emergency response with the greatest margin of safety for firefighters in the most fiscally responsible way."

Let us go back to these objectives and see how these objectives are achieved through modernization.

Effectiveness of a fire and rescue service can be enhanced by procurement of latest and state of the art equipment. Such equipment must cover all the requirements, including the requirement for vehicles, pumps, Personal Protection Equipment, and rescue tools etc. While planning for the equipment we must identify the special needs of an area and its conditions. The equipment which may be very useful in an urban situation may not be equally relevant for a rural situation. Then, there may be special installations in the area covered by us such as a nuclear plant or a chemical factory which may require special arrangements. Such specific needs must get adequate focus in our modernization planning. There may also be strategic issues requiring attention. An area may be prone to cyclones, another to earthquakes and still another to floods due to rains. Preparing the fire and rescue services for these tasks would require proper planning of equipment and training. Another area of strategic importance is the possibility of terrorist attacks. Serial bomb blasts, bio-terrorism and chemical terrorism are threats that loom large and any modernization strategy would be incomplete if it does not provide for these requirements.

Efficiency can be enhanced in many ways by the use of modern equipment. One important area is communication. Ideally, we must procure communication sets that provide hands-free operation. Monitoring systems such as GPS, video cameras for remote-viewing and facilities for teleconferencing can vastly increase efficiency. Computer networks can be utilized for collection of statistics, analyses of situations and predictions and projections. Standard Operating Procedures, mock-drills and coordination exercises with other sister agencies such as police and revenue department help to smoothen the functioning together of these agencies at times of crises. Manuals which clearly define the role of each agency go a long way in improving coordinated functioning in a multi-disciplinary context.

As mentioned earlier, it should be our endeavour while modernizing the fire and rescue services to use maximum economy. We must keep it in mind that in a third world country like ours, whatever resources are spared for us have to be withdrawn from some other equally important need of the society. Economy can be achieved by standardizing the procurement procedures, and by proper maintenance of equipment. In my own experience, I have found these two areas to be very tricky. Equally important is the need for proper planning to assess the type and quantity of equipment required by the Department. One has to encounter many pitfalls while undertaking this exercise. It is often difficult to draw the balance between those items which may be required almost daily and those which may not be needed frequently but may become very crucial when the need for them arises. Take a hazmat vehicle for instance. The cost of a hazmat vehicle is equal to the cost of nearly 40 water tenders or 50 water lorries. While the addition of 40 water tenders or 50 water lorries would make a sea-change to the fire-fighting capability of a fire-brigade, a hazmat vehicle may mostly lie idle. Yet, at the time of a poisonous gas-leak, such a vehicle may help to save hundreds of lives. Other questions of choices between different options often confront the Fire Chief. Should one go in for a smaller number of high-pressure but costlier pumps or a larger number of low-pressure but cheaper pumps? Would it be more economical to purchase very high pressure monitors which could be used to direct a jet of water straight to a

height rather than skylifts? What would be an ideal combination of the two? Perhaps conferences and meetings like this should in the weeks and months to come become a forum for sharing experience on such issues.

Having given an overview of the modernization framework, I now wish to dwell on some specific issues related to modernization.

While it is good to focus on technology and state-of-the-art equipment, there are many other less tangible aspects of modernization which are of equal consequence. One of these is the organizational culture. The interpersonal relations and the manner of communication within an organization make a significant difference to the results achieved by it. A modern organization must be a learning organization where each member constantly tries to improve and grow. I wish to reproduce a few words from the book *The Fifth Discipline*, where the writer says:

"Because learning is integral to planning and because planning is inescapable to management, you cannot escape learning....It is not a marginal activity to be engaged when one has spare time or a concern of a handful of "experts".

A modern learning organization works with a shared vision. All the members of the organisation work for and towards goals which are common to them and to the organization. A shared vision brings commitment. Attainment of such a vision gives a sense of satisfaction and draws the individual emotionally closer to the organization. Any attempt at modernization must, therefore, give adequate emphasis to a shared vision.

The organization should work towards the building up of a shared knowledge base which is available to all and to which all make a contribution. Computers and networking make such a knowledge base possible. In Tamil Nadu we are now trying to build such a knowledge base which would be available to the officers working within Chennai City. In course of time we will try to extend it to the whole state.

Another aspect of the learning process is the building up of a system of reviews in which everyone makes an honest and constructive self-assessment. Introducing such practices pose initial difficulties. We may have a fear that our subordinates will take advantage of us. It takes time, effort and courage to break a system that has fossilized over years and years of practice. But in my opinion it is well worth the effort to try such innovative methods. In a sense the effort taken by the DGCD to organize experience and ideas sharing sessions of the type that we are having today has gone a long way in promoting a shared vision at the national level. The DGCD could perhaps consider making the website an active forum of online sharing of experiences and knowledge. Conferences and meetings of this type could then be the culmination of such online and continual experience and knowledge sharing.

Training is another major area requiring emphasis in modernization. Training is the root and the spring of change. A properly managed and suitably energized training centre can play a crucial role in changing the organizational culture of a fire and rescue service. Fortunately, Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the modernization of the training centres at the national level. In Tamil Nadu we propose to start a Disaster Management School as a part of the upgradation of the present training centre into an autonomous Academy. The idea has been accepted in principle and the proposal sent by me is pending for the approval of the Government. In the days to come perhaps the four states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh could each develop one area of specialization so that duplication of similar facilities could be avoided. Similar regionalization could perhaps be attempted for other areas.

Cultivation of a culture of ideas, thinking and discussion are another area of prime significance. In Tamil Nadu I have successfully tried meditation as a technique for developing the culture of thinking. Frequent thinking-sessions and discussions have resulted in a total transformation in the outlook of our officers. Of course, not everyone has responded with the same zeal. But, then, there is an overall leavening of the system with a few individuals responding with dramatic results. The results that have begun to emerge will encourage others in the days to come. One Veeramani, an Assistant Divisional Officer from Tamil Nadu was awarded the Godiva award for this year by the Institution of Fire Engineers, and one Namasivayam has been regularly contributing high-standard articles to the *Construction Journal of India*.

One important aspect of modernization is the identification of problems and finding innovative and effective solutions to these problems. During the Tsunami that struck the coast of Tamil Nadu on 26th of December 2004, our men and officers had to work under highly stressful conditions. They had to carry the heavy burden of hundreds of dead bodies which either lay buried under silt brought by the sea, or were

entangled in bushes or simply lay unnoticed within huts.

The extremely stressful task performed by the personnel of TNFRS posed serious problems of coping. We decided to study the problem and took the assistance of a group of psychiatrists. These psychiatrists conducted tests on our men and the results of these tests were discussed by us. The findings were significant from several points of view. It was found that a sizeable number of our personnel had developed varying degrees of disorders, with at least one developing PTSD. Another significant finding was that compassion satisfaction was higher among the personnel who had spent more time in the Department. Also persons with longer service showed less compassion fatigue. Another encouraging result obtained from the study was that more than 50% of the personnel used problem solving as a coping strategy, while only a small percentage had a tendency to use the escape-avoidance strategy. Although the sample used for the study was small, yet the results were significant indicators. In my opinion, taking up such studies should become a very important part of our modernization strategy.

To conclude, I have briefly touched upon some of the major issues in the modernization of fire services. Perhaps the issues need to be debated and more clearly defined in the days and months to come so that we could all learn from one another and move on the path to modernization. The challenges of today are much bigger than the challenges of yesterday, and the challenges of tomorrow are going to be bigger still. These challenges call upon us to give our best. I wish to reproduce a line from the foreword to the Fire-Chief's Handbook, which says:

A Fire-chief in today's world is expected to be

"a ubiquitous leader, creative accountant, social thinker, personnel relations specialist, chief safety officer, lawyer-in-training, public speaker, and computer hack, among many others (not to mention incident commander!)"

Also, modernization will have to be a continuous practice. Things are changing fast and what is new today will be old tomorrow. Today's tomorrow will be day-after-tomorrow's yesterday.

APPENDIX "31-D"

32ND MEETING OF THE STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL

ON 5TH AND 6TH AUGUST 2009

**OTERRA, NO. 43, ELECTRONICS CITY PHASE -1, HOSUR ROAD,
BANGALORE**

MINTUES

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE GENERAL CIVIL DEFENCE
NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 32ND MEETING OF STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL
HELD AT OTERRA, NO. 43, ELECTRONICS CITY PHASE -1, HOSUR ROAD,
BANGALORE ON 5TH AND 6TH AUGUST 2009**

Chairman : Sh. R. K. Bhatia, IPS, DG National Disaster Response Force and Civil Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Member Secretary : Sh. Om Prakash, Fire Adviser, Directorate General Civil Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Member/Delegates : List of members/delegates to 32nd meeting of SFAC is to Annexure - 1

Proceeding of the meeting

ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND THE DECISIONS TAKEN ARE MENTIONED BELOW:

Sl. No.	AGENDA POINTS	REMARKS
	POLICY /LEGAL ISSUES	
1	UTILIZATION OF POLICE MODERNIZATION FUNDS FOR UP-GRADATION OF FIRE SERVICES ON PAR WITH HOME GUARDS. <u>Andhra Pradesh</u> There has been considerable decrease in the funds allocated to the Fire Services by the Central & State Government. It is therefore, suggested that Government of India should consider allocation of Police Modernization funds for upgradation / modernization of fire services at par with Home Guards as First Responders.	Chairman informed the Council that In the past GIC had allocated Rs. 405 crores. Xth & XIth Finance Commissions have allocated Rs. 80 & Rs. 201 crores respectively. Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 200 crores for the plan period 2007-2012. Fire and Emergency Services need more funds for the modernization. The Ministry will approach to the XIII th Finance Commission for the same. Chairman also suggested to the State Fire Services that they should also project their demand to the XIII th Finance Commission through their State Governments. DGCD will write to the concerned authority to give 10% of Calamity Relief Fund allotted to the State Governments for the procurement of rescue and evacuation equipments for Fire Service. Action : DGCD, MHA/States
2.	DIRECTIONS TO STATE GOVERNMENTS' LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR CONDUCTING REGULAR RECRUITMENT OF FIREMAN / DRIVER OPERATOR/STATION FIRE OFFICER TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM RIDING STRENGTH OF FIRE VEHICLES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FIRE SERVICES	Chairman informed the Council that the SFAC has already recommended the minimum manpower fireman/driver required for maintaining fire fighting and rescue vehicles. The Compendium of Instructions of Standing Fire Advisory Council contains all the details. Members may impress upon their State Governments for implementation of the policy guidelines on appointment of fireman/drivers.

Andhra Pradesh SFAC in its recommendations has fixed the minimum riding strength of fire vehicles for attending the fire and rescue calls. But due to long ban on recruitment and retirement of existing strength I many fire services are finding it impossible to maintain the minimum riding strength of fire vehicles and this affecting the performance of Fire Services. As Fire Service , is the first responder for all types of fires/disaster, it is desirable that the minimum riding strength is maintained by all the Fire Services for effective operations. Therefore it is requested that necessary recommendation / directions may be issued to all Fire Service Authorities/State Governments to plan and conduct regular recruitment of fire personnel to ensure minimum, riding strength of fire vehicles.	Action : States
3. DECLARATION OF FIRE SERVICE AS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT Assam The Fire Service Department should be declared as Technical Department on the basis of its nature of duties as well as the equipment and appliances used for the purpose to discharge the duties. Moreover, the subject of fire technology consist of Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Automobile etc. and all these subjects are taught to the fire service personnel at the initial stage after recruitment. Therefore, it is requested to issue necessary guideline to the State Government to take necessary action in this regard.	Chairman informed the members that the Council in its earlier meetings have already decided to declare Fire Service in the country as a Technical Service. Members can convince the State Government for implementing the decision in this regard. Action : States
4. RECRUITMENT OF B.E. (FIRE) IN THE STATE FIRE SERVICE. Assam As the nature of job in the Fire Service Department is technical, engineers like B.E.(Fire) should be recruited in the cadre posts (A.D.O.ID.O.) so that in the senior level/posts can be held by them in the Organization just below the rank of the D.G. of Fire Service.	Chairman informed the Council that DGCD (Fire Cell) issued a policy direction that B.E. (Fire) candidates are eligible to be recruited in the State Fire Services in the cadre of ADO/DO. Action : Nil

5. **ADOPTION OF UNIFORM BUILDING CODE, FIRE SERVICE ACT & RULES ALLOVER INDIA.**

Assam

The State Government empowers the Department like Development Authority to issue N.O.C. for construction of all types of buildings including high-rise buildings according to their own Bye-laws and their Bye-laws are incorporated with the National Building Code of India. Therefore it is suggested that the Government of India may issue necessary instruction to all State Govt. to prepare uniform building code as per N.B.C. 2005 in consultation with the State Fire Service for fire safety measures of all buildings and areas to be developed. It is requested to adopt Uniform Fire Service Act & Rules in India for development of Fire Services in India

Chairman informed th e Council that Fire being a State subject, it is primarily for the State Government to enact Fire Service Act, Rules and adopt National Building Code in their State. However, whenever any State Government sends their State Fire Service Act for vetting, DGCD (Fire Cell) insist on incorporating the provisions of fire safety as contained in the National Building Code of India under the relevant clauses proposed in the State Act. If States incorporate the provisions of NBC in their local building bye-laws and State Fire Service Act the standard of fire safety will be enhanced.

Action : States

6. **FIRE SERVICE OATH**

Bhillai Steel Plant

Fire Services in India are taking Fire Service Oath as per local arrangements in their Departments. In some of the PSU they are taking safety and security oath on the eve of Fire Service day. There is a need for National Fire Service Oath so that all Fire Service personnel can read same oath through out the country.

Members discussed the issue and felt that there is an urgent need to have a standard Fire Service Oath for all over the country. It was decided that Shri Jagmohan Jain, Chief Fire Officer, Bhillai Steel Plant will collect the samples of Oath from the various Fire Services and submit the drafts to the Chairman for approval.

Action : Chief Fire Officer" Bhillai Steel Plant/DGCD, MHA

7. **PERSONNEL SAFETY**

Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa & Bhilai Steel Plant

The Personnel safety of the Fireman is a great challenge especially when they are being press into service in the natural and man-made disaster situations.

Personal protective equipments with regards to clothing and gumboots need to be updated. Multilayered Fire Fighting Garments conforming to EN 469/2007 (Performance level 2 suitable for Fire Fighters) and fire resistant and chemical resistant gumboots should be recommended in the Appendix D of the Compendium.

Members discussed on the issue and emphasized the need to have standard specification for the Personal protective equipments. After discussion it was decided that a Sub-Committee comprising of Director, Fire & Emergency Services Goa as Chairman, Chief Fire Officer, Bhilai Steel Plant, and a representative each from Mumbai and Delhi Fire Service will review the existing standard and send the draft to the Chairman.

Action : Sub-Committe

8. DEPLOYMENT OF HOME GUARDS AS AUXILIARY FIREMAN <u>Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli</u> The attachment of Home Guards to Fire Services as auxiliary fireman would tide over the man power shortage. The Police Departments are already utilizing their services in traffic and general duties. The Home Guards should also be deployed and trained in the fire fighting and rescue operation to manage the increasing work load of Fire & Emergency Services during the emergency as also recommended in 29th Meeting of SFAC.	Chairman informed that decision on the deployment of Home Guards as Auxiliary Fireman has already been taken by the SFAC in the past, it is for the State Governments to implement the same. Action : States
9. NEED TO STATUTORY RECOGNITION TO STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL. <u>Goa</u> Act of Parliament may be got passed conferring Statutory status to the Standing Fire Advisory Council. The Ministry of Home Affairs to take steps to convert SFAC into a Statutory/Mandatory body on the same line as other statutory bodies like National Safety Council, National Medical Council, etc.	Chairman informed the Council members that SFAC is only a recommendatory body. Therefore, Central Government cannot impose its recommendations on the State Governments as Fire is a State subject according to the constitution of India. Action : States
10. OBSERVANCE OF WORLD PROTECTION DAY AND INCLUSION OF FIRE PREVENTION AS ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS IN UN CHARTER <u>Goa</u> To review the recommendations made in the 23rd meeting of SFAC and expedite the matter by Government of India through Ministry of External Affairs with the UN body	The point raised by the State Government of Goa was discussed in detail and the Chairman decided that Director, Goa Fire & Emergency Services will prepare a draft in this regard and send the same to DGCD (Fire Cell) for taking necessary action. Action: Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Goa.
11. CALAMITY RELIEF FUND TO THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT OF ALL STATE GOVERNMENTS <u>Karnataka</u> At present, even though the Gal is releasing Calamity Relief Fund to the Revenue Department of all State Governments, it is difficult to obtain these funds from State Government for the Fire & Emergency	Chairman apprised that In the past GIC had allocated Rs. 405 crores. Xth & XIth Finance Commissions have allocated Rs. 80 & Rs. 201 crores respectively. Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 200 crores for the plan period 2007-2012. Fire and Emergency Services need more funds for the modernization. The Ministry will approach to the XIII th Finance Commission for the same. Chairman also suggested to the State Fire Services that they should also project their demand to the

Services to strengthen their Disaster Management capabilities. Hence the GOI should fix certain percentage of the earmarked amount for the above purpose.	XIII th Finance Commission through their State Governments. DGCD will write to the concerned authority to give 10% of Calamity Relief Fund allotted to the State Governments for the procurement of rescue and evacuation equipments for Fire Service. Action : DGCD, MHA/States
12. IMPORTED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT ARE TO BE EXEMPTED FROM DUTY <u>Karnataka</u> Imported vehicles and equipment like Hydraulic Platforms, Rescue vehicles, Rescue and life saving equipments are to be exempted from duty and the procedure of procurement may have to be simplified	Chairman informed the Council members that efforts have been made, in the past but the proposal was turned down by Ministry of Finance. The Chairman decided that letters will be sent to the State Governments asking their requirements. Based on the proposals received from the State Governments, DGCD (Fire Cell) will again take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for the exemption of custom duty on import of Fire Service Equipment / appliances. Action : States
13. NAMING AS FIRE EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MITIGATION SERVICE <u>Puducherry</u> It is well known that the Fire Service being first responder to all types of natural and man made disasters including Fire, naming it as Fire, Emergency and Disaster Mitigation Service will be more appropriate to the current situation.	Chairman informed the Council Members that the decision about re-christening of Fire Service as Fire & Emergency Service has already been taken in the SFAC Meeting and the re-christened name seems more relevant for Fire services in the country. Many States have already changed the names as Fire & Emergency Service. Action : States
II ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES	
1. PROVISION OF RENT- FREE ACCOMMODATION <u>Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli</u> It is very essential that rent free accommodation should be provided for all members of the Service of the Fire Station premises as also discussed at the 23rd Meeting of the Council. However, yet no action has been taken in this matter. As such, once again suggested that the matter may be taken up during the meeting and Directorate General Civil Defence (Fire Cell) is requested to take up matter with concerned Ministries for necessary approval of the same.	Chairman informed the Council members that Fire Service being an Emergency Service, require the fire personnel available in emergency round the clock duty. It becomes necessary for the State Governments to provide rent-free accommodation to the fire personnel. The recommendations on this have already been issued to the State Government in the past. Action : States
2. RECOMMENDATION TO PAY COMMISSION	Chairman informed the members that Fire &

<u>Puducherry & Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli</u> Standing Fire Advisory Council has to give Recommendations to Pay Commission for fixing up of pay scales to Fire Service Officers and Personnel for a uniform national scale, since the 6th CPC has not recommended appropriate and uniform pay scales.	Emergency Service being governed by the State Government Rules and regulations, it is primarily for them to decide the suitable pay structure for Fire Services under their jurisdiction. Action : States
III MODERNIZATION	
1. FIRE STATIONS BE EQUIPPED WITH MODERN FIRE EQUIPMENTS <u>Uttarakhand, Bhilai Steel Plant</u> Fire Stations be equipped with ' modern fire equipments for natural and Industrial disasters. Turntable ladder and Hydraulic platform are required for 100 ft. height.	Chairman appreciated the point raised by the State Govt. of Uttarakhand and Bhilai Steel Plant and informed that for the modernization of Fire Services in the country Rs. 200 crores has been allocated by the Planning Commission. He emphasized that there is an urgent need to upgrade Fire Services in the country by providing them State of the art equipments and appliances. It is primarily for the State Governments to give them modern equipments and appliances to enable them to discharge their duties efficiently and provide them adequate funds. Action: States
2. MODERNISATION OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES <u>Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Karnataka</u> The Fire Services in India required strengthening by providing modern specialized Fire Fighting and rescue equipments to combat emergencies presented by high-rise building, hazardous materials, industries and high population dent cities. A large number of Fire station with adequate fire fighting and rescue operation therefore, need to be located in rural and urban area for giving timely fire cover to the public and property. As such, a central sponsored scheme should be implemented for development and Modernization of Fire & emergency Services in India for filling of the above deficiencies. GOI should allocate grants/financial assistance for the modernization and up-gradation of Fire & Emergency Services in the country. The release of grant should be on the basis of the performance and development of each Fire & Emergency Services.	Chairman appreciated the point raised by the State Govt. of Uttarakhand and Bhilai Steel Plant and informed that for the modernization of Fire Services in the country Rs. 200 crores has been allocated by the Planning Commission. He emphasized that there is an urgent need to upgrade Fire Services in the country by providing them State of the art equipments and appliances. It is primarily for the State Governments to give them modern equipments and appliances to enable them to discharge their duties efficiently and provide them adequate funds. Action : States

3. **THE PROBLEMS IN MULTIPLEX**

Jharkhand

- Large scale of public assembly
- Various types of fire risk
- Shortage of place of comparative / ultimate safety
- Want of direct approach to the EXIT
- Terrorist attack
- Two stairs in Cinema halls and they have no concern with occupancies
- In Multiplex there is educational occupancy.
- All stairs should be enclosed and Fire Check door are also operated from the Control room
- High velocity water mist technology in place of sprinkler
- Fire check door.

Chairman informed the members that the National Building Code of India contains the detailed recommendations on fire safety/fire protection in all types of buildings including that of in Multiplexes. It was decided to incorporate the provisions in their local building bye-laws and the Fire Service Act.

Action : States

4. **EQUIPMENTS FOR HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE ZONE:**

Rajasthan

It is felt that modernization of equipment is required for fire fighting in highly radioactive zone.

Suitable specification/standard need to be developed for meeting the requirement.

Chairman appreciated the requirements of Fire Service to fight fire in the areas where the radioactive material is handled. Since Shri Tandle, Chief Fire Officer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has the expertise in the field, It was resolved that Shri Tandle will suggest the equipments for the fire service and submit the draft specification of each item for consideration and approval.

**Action: Shri Tandle, Chief Fire Officer,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre**

5. **SPECIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT & MANPOWER FOR FORMATION OF SEARCH & RESCUE (SAR) & RESCUE (SAR) TEAM.**

Andhra Pradesh

Fire and Emergency Service Department is identified as Multi-Hazard First Responder and entrusted with safeguarding Life and Property in natural and manmade disasters.

As per the section 18, of the Disaster Management Act 2005, the State Disaster Management Authority (SOMA) is authorized to lay down the State Disaster Management Policy to approve the State Plan in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National Authority and approve the Disaster Management plans prepared by the departments of the State Government etc ..

Members discussed the issue and felt that search and rescue is the integral part of the Fire Services and there is no need to raise the separate search and rescue team. The State Government can strengthen the existing department by strengthening the existing organization for the purpose.

Action : States

The A. P. Fire and Emergency Services has proposed to constitute: • 23 Search and Rescue Teams to be stationed at all District Headquarters. The details with financial implications are shown in Annexure-I. • One Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) search & rescue team. The details with financial implication are shown in Annexure-II. • One Search & Rescue Team each in all (93) Sub Divisional Headquarters. The details with financial implication are shown in Annexure-III. It is requested to discuss and finalise the Manpower, vehicles and equipment composition of SAR Team specification of specialized vehicles and equipment to ensure uniformity.	
6. PROCURING SPECIAL APPLIANCES (AERIAL LADDERS AND HAZMAT VANS) FOR FIRE SERVICES Goa & Bhilai Steel Plant The D.G.C.D. (Fire Cell) may identify the requirement of Aerial Ladders (Turn Table Ladders, Hydraulic Platforms, Telescopic Ladders, etc.) and Hazmat Vans for Fire Services in the country and help procuring the equipment for the state Fire & emergency Services through Central assistance.	Chairman informed that the Compendium of Instructions of Standing Fire Advisory Council has detailed guidelines for provision of special appliances such as Aerial Ladders, Rescue Vehicles etc. In the absence of any hazard analysis in the States it is very difficult to quantify the requirement of such equipments. For the first time DGCD (Fire Cell) will be getting sufficient funds for risk analysis of whole country. It will help to forecast the future monetary requirements for the Fire Services in the country. Action: DGCD, MHA/States
7. LIFE PERIOD OF FIRE APPLIANCES Bhilai Steel Plant Life period for different fire appliances & extinguishers shall be specified. This will be helpful to get the replacement of old Fire Appliances & Extinguishers	Members emphasized the need to re-look on the existing recommendations relating to life period of fire appliances. After discussion it was decided that a Sub-Committee comprising of Fire Adviser, Government of Maharashtra, as Chairman, Shri Jagmohan Jain, Chief Fire Officer Bhilai Steel Plant, a representative from Mumbai Fire Service and Delhi Fire Service as member will look into the matter and suggest suitable changes in the existing policy wherever necessary and submit the report. Action : Sub- Committee
8. FIRE CHEMICALS USED IN HIGHLY HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES Oil & Natural Gas Commission	Members from Oil & Natural Gas Commission suggested that specifications be formulated by the Fire Advisory Council for specialized Fire fighting equipments, System and Fire chemicals used in highly hazardous industries like hydrocarbon, petrochemical, fertilizer and

Standardized specifications to be formulated by the Fire Advisory Council for specialized Fire fighting equipments, Systems and Fire chemicals used in highly hazardous Industries like hydrocarbon, petrochemical, fertilizer and shipping etc.	shipping etc. Chairman informed that Sub-Committee has already submitted the specifications of Hazmat Van, rescue van and others special fire fighting and rescue equipments. A copy of which is distributed amongst the members and approved. Action: DGCD, MHA
9. RATE CONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENTS <u>Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited</u> Rate contracts for various fire fighting equipments and fire chemicals to be finalized by SFAC and circulated to all organized Fire Services to facilitate early procurement action	Chairman explained the members the importance of having rate contracts with DGS&D for the firefighting and rescue equipments to ensure easy availability of items at reasonable cost without going through tender process. These contracts are generally entered into with DGS&D by the manufacturers and suppliers directly. SFAC need not to come in between for the commercial negotiation. Action : Nil
10. STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENTS FOR ATTENDING SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS <u>Puducherry</u> Fire Service responds to Special Service calls such as rescuing of human beings and animals fallen into wells, removing of fallen trees, rescuing of people from inland water sources (where under water searches and rescues are made), destroying of Wasp combs etc. in these circumstances, in most services there are no specialized rescue gear and makeshift methods (which are unsafe to the rescuer in sometimes) are only applied. Hence action may be taken for standardization of equipments and necessary specialized training courses have to be formulated for responding such Special Service calls effectively.	Chairman appraised the members that SFAC already laid down the norms for fire fighting, rescue and the specialized equipments, manpower and other requirement of fire services based on population, response time and the fire risk in the area. Members can take help of these norms for working of the real requirement of their fire services. Action: Nil
IV TRAINING	
1. TRAINING OF DIRECT RECRUIT STATION FIRE OFFICERS AND DIVISIONAL FIRE OFFICERS AT NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE, NAGPUR. Andhra Pradesh With the direct recruitment of various Cadre fire officers like Station Fire Officers,	Chairman informed that the decision has already been taken in the 29th SFAC. Director NFSC has already been instructed to give admission to all these directly recruited Station Fire Officer and Divisional Fire Officers whenever the request received by him from any State Government. However, such cases will be referred to DGCD for approval on case-to-case basis. Action : Director, NFSC

Divisional Fire Officers, the need is felt by various Fire Departments that the minimum qualifications and experience for admission to Station Fire Officers, Divisional Fire Officers Courses should be relaxed to avoid any anomalies in Promotions/service matters. It is also observed that most of the direct recruits are Graduates/Post Graduates and professional degree holders recruited through various recruitment agencies like State Public Service Commissions and Police recruitment boards after rigorous recruitment process. Therefore it is requested that the Director, National Fire Service College, Nagpur should be empowered to relax the minimum qualifications and experience in case of direct recruit Station Fire Officers, Divisional Fire Officers as and when such officers are sponsored for the training programmes at National Fire Service College, Nagpur.	
2. TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE <u>Goa, Karnataka, Oil & Natural Gas & Bhilai Steel Plant</u> NFSC the only college of the Home Ministry is conducting Fire Professional Courses including B.E. (Fire). At present neither it has sufficient teaching faculty nor infrastructure to cope up the requirement of Fire Services in the country. There is huge demand of NFSC qualified Fire Professionals in PSUs, Research Centers & Different Fire Services in the country. NFSC shall be strengthened & developed in to the world class Fire Academy.	Chairman apprised the members the status of the project proposal for upgradation of NFSC as an Institution of Excellences, which will be implemented in near future on top priority. Action : DGCD/MHA
3. REGARDING REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMIES/ CENTERS <u>Karnataka</u> The GOI should recognize and support a few established Regional Training Academies/Centers to conduct Sub Officers and Station Officers Course (now being conducted at NFSC, Nagpur), provision for regular financial support from the states sponsoring the candidates and also from GOI.	Members were of the opinion that Government of India should recognize and support a few established Regional Training Academies/Centers to conduct Sub Officers and Station Officers Course (now being conducted at NFSC, Nagpur), provision for regular financial support from the states sponsoring the candidates and also from GOI. Chairman informed the members that Regional Fire Training Centers to conduct Sub Officers of NFSC are already operational in many States. As regards to monetary assistance for their up-gradation is concerned the same will be provided on availability. Action : Nil

4. A SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSE <u>Oil & natural Gas Corporation Limited</u> A specialized training course of two weeks on hydrocarbon, petroleum emergencies and related subjects to be formulated and conducted by National Fire Service College, Nagpur	Chairman clarified that the existing facilities are not sufficient to conduct specialized courses on hydrocarbon, petroleum emergencies and related subjects. These courses will be only possible when the up-gradation of the College is completed. Action : Nil
5. PROPER TRAINING TO APPOINTED FIREMEN <u>Uttarakhand</u>	Members suggested for up gradation of syllabus, proper training to the Firemen, so that they can discharge their duties efficiently. The Chairman apprised the members that the syllabus for training to the Firemen has recently been up-dated by the SFAC and circulated to the State Governments for adopting the same. Action : States
6. UPDATING THE SYLLABUS FOR VARIOUS RANKS IN FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE <u>Goa</u> Diploma and Ad. Diploma Certificates issued by the National Fire Service College, Nagpur should be placed at parity with the Diploma and AMIE qualifications awarded by the Institution of Engineers (India). The Institution of Fire Engineers award of Graduate ship and AMIE also be placed at par as above	The Chairman decided that Director, NFSC will up-grade the existing syllabus and submit the comprehensive proposal for approval. Action : Director, NFSC
7. DIRECTOR, NFSC • Syllabus __ Review • Uniform _____Charge, review and Implementation • State Government Contribution _____Status & Monitoring • National Policy of Standard Norms for selection of Fireman in the country. • Preparing list with Fire Service Personnel with specialization from State • Government for NFSC - Guest Faculty. • Policy of training requirement _____Qualification, Duration and Driving License for all courses. • Introduction of Capsule and refresher Courses for Private Industries/Govt.	Director, NFSC proposed the review of syllabus for various courses, review of Firemen uniform, State Govt. contribution towards training, training courses for private industries, clarification for direct entry Station Officers and Instructors Course, Divisional Officers Course, feed back received from Regional Fire Training Centres. After deliberation it was decided that a Sub-Committee comprising of Director, NFSC as Chairman, the representative from the Regional Training Centres on rotation basis will be set up to study the requirement and make suitable recommendations on each issue raised by the Director, National Fire Service College, Nagpur. Action : Director, NFSC

• Clarification for direct entry in Station Officer & Instructors/Divisional Officers course. • RTC _____Feedback for training quality from State Government.	
8. CONDUCTING OF SPECIALIZED COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MITIGATION COURSES <u>Puducherry</u> Training in TOT Courses specially designed for Fire Officers and Personnel has to be extended to National Fire Service College, Nagpur, by National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi.	Member from Puducherry suggested that training of TOT Courses be specially designed for Fire Officers and Personnel and conducted at National Fire Service College, Nagpur and at National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi. Chairman agreed to the proposal. Action : Nil
9. B.E.(FIRE) DISTANCE MODE THROUGH EDUCATION <u>Puducherry</u> Some of the Universities are awarding B.E. (Mechanical, Civil, Chemical and Electrical etc.) through Distance Education mode. Action may be taken for conducting of B. E. (Fire) through Distance Education mode by National Fire Service College, Nagpur, as more Fire Officers are available with basic and professional experience. And thereby quality of service rendering to the public may be enhanced.	The Chairman agreed to the suggestion and suggested that the Director, NFSC will examine and put up the detailed proposal for approval. Some of the Universities Action : Director, NFSC
V MISCELLANEOUS	
1. Hindi version of Compendium Volume I provided so that everyone can understand. <u>Uttarakhand</u>	Member from Uttarakhand suggested that the Compendium of Instructions of Standing Fire Advisory Council be provided in Hindi so that everyone can understand the policy guidelines easily. Chairman apprised the members that Compendium is already available in both Hindi & English and can be had from the Office of DGCD. Action : Nil
2. MASS AWARENESS <u>Goa, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli</u> At present, not much has been done towards making the public aware of fire	Chairman informed the members that in the past electronic and publicity material have been prepared/ published and regularly send to the State Governments by DGCD Office and copies of recently prepared material have been distributed to Members in this meeting. Members can go through the material and give their suggestions for further improvement.

safety. Therefore the matter may be taken up during the meeting for introduction of mass awareness programme in better way.

Action: Nil

3. **NATIONAL FIRE RECORDS DATA BASE.**
Puducherry

National Fire/Special Service calls record data base has to be created wherein we can ascertain the Fire accidents happening all over the country and will be useful for

Members felt the need to have centralized data collection system on the activities of Fire Services in the country. After discussion it was decided that a copy of already developed soft ware will: be sent to the States.

Action : DGCD/MHA

Chairman thanked all the delegates who have attended the 32nd Meeting of the Standing Fire Advisory Council and he stressed the need to work together to help in the development of Fire Services in the country.

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Shri R. K. Bhatia, DGNDRF&CD, MHA, Chairman.

**Delegates who have attended the 32nd Standing Fire
Advisory Council held on 5-6th August, 2009**

1. Shri R. K. Bhatia, DGNDRF&CD
2. Shri Om Parkash, Fire Adviser, MHA
3. Shri D.K. Shami, Dy. Fire Adviser, MHA
4. Shri Gouranga Sahoo, UDC
5. Shri D. K. Borah, ADGP, Assam, Guwahati,
6. Shri A.K.Sinha, Director General, Fire Service, Bihar,
7. Shri Ramesh Chandra, State Fire Officer, Bihar
8. Shri Suresh Prashad, Jharkhand
9. Shri Jayantanarayan Ray, Chief Fire Officer, Heavy Water Plant, Rajasthan.
10. Shri Pratap Pandey, Addl. Director of State, Hyderabad.
11. Shri N. Noren Singh, Director, Manipur
12. Shri Mohinder Lal Kakkar, ADFO, Punjab
13. Shri A.K. Tandle, CFO Mumbai
14. Shri Jasbir Singh, Fire Officer, NDMC Hqrs., New Delhi.
15. Shri B.D.Dubey, Director (IH), DGFASLI, Mumbai
16. Shri D.S. Chauhan, Dy. CFO, Karnataka
17. Shri U. S. Chillar, Gen Secretary, IFE (India) New Delhi
18. Shri B. S. Tongar, OSD, Police Fire Station, Bhopal, M.P.
19. Shri Zoram Mawia, Director, Mizoram
20. Shri Balla Knirstya, Divisional Fire Officer, Puducherry
21. Shri Jagmohan Jain, Bhilai Steel Plant
22. Shri Shamim, Director, NFSC
23. Dr. G. A. Bhat, DG Fire & Emergency Services, J&K.
24. Shri R. C. Sharma, CFO, Delhi Fire Service
25. Shri S. Kumar, GM(FS) AAI
26. Dr. G. Mishra, Dy. CFO, DFS, New Delhi.
27. Shri K. U. Ramesh, CFO, Bangalore
28. Dr. N. Suresh, Director, BFRC
29. Shri H. W. Ramathirtha, Chairman, LCRC, NIE, Mysore
30. Shri P. Nimiswamy, DCGHG, Dy Director CD
31. Shri V. K. Sharma, DIG/Fire CISF
32. Shri G. B. Menon, Fire Adviser(Retd) Cochin.
33. Shri D. P. Biswas, Addl. Director General
34. Shri K. C. Wadhwa, Addl. Director, CFEES, MOD, Delhi.
35. Shri Raghvan The Hindu.
36. Shri Abhinandan, AH, Admn. Officer, F&ES,
37. Shri Tara, DGP, Tamilnadu Fire Service
38. Shri P. D. Karaupakar, CFO, Mumbai

**MINUTES OF THE 32ND MEETING OF STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL
HELD AT OTERRA, NO. 43, ELECTRONICS CITY PHASE -1, HOSUR ROAD,
BANGALORE ON 5TH AND 6TH AUGUST 2009**

Sl. No.	Name Designation and Name of the State/UT/Orgn.	Tel. No. Office	Tel. No. Residence	Moblie	Fax	E-Mail
1.	Shri R.K Bhatia, DGNDRF&CD	26712851				
2.	Shri Om Prakash, Fire Advisor, MHA New Delhi	26712832	517717465	9312405577	26712832	
3.	Shri D.K Shami Dy. Fire Adviser	011-26712951	9871391222	9868233999	011-26712951	d.k.shami@yahoo.com
4.	Shri D.K Borah, ADGP, Assam, Guwahati,			09435046892		
5.	Shri A.K Sinha DG Fire Services Bihar Patna			09431012952		
6.	Shri Suresh Chandra, State Fire Officer Bihar	0612-2222467	0612-2523679	09431448273	0612-2222467 0612-2221191	
7.	Shri Suresh Prashad, Jharkhand	0651-2284238	0651-2480466	0943110440	0651-2284238	
8.	Shri Jayantenarayan Ray, Chief Fire Officer, Heavy water plant,	01475-242222	2338751	9001002344 9314002344	01475-242203	

	Deptt. of Atomic Energy, Anushakti Kota Rajasthan					
9.	Shri Pratap Pandey, Addl Director of State, Hyderabad			9849906106		
10.	Shri N. Noren Singh Joint Director Manipur Fire Station	23109	2220969	9436022374		norenfire@yahoo.co.in
11.	Shri Mohinder Lal Kakkar Asst. Div. Fire Officer, c/o Secretary Local Govt. Punjab 130-131 Janeja Building Sector-17, Chandigarh	0172-2728241	0712-2793672	09780100779	0712-2728241	
12.	Shri A.K Tandle, CFO Mumbai	022-25595336 022-25505222				
13.	Shri Jasbir Singh, Fire Officer, NDMC Hqrs, New Delhi	23366633		09810163433		
14.	Shri B.D Dubey, Director (IH), DGFASLI, Mumbai	022-24092203		09867406106		
15.	Shri D.S Chauhan, Dy. CFO, Karnataka			9448291794		
16.	Shri U.S Chillar, Gen Secretary, IFE (India) New Delhi			09810568675		

17.	Shri B.S Tong ar, OSD, Fire & Disaster, Govt., of MP			09425066202		
18.	Shri Shri Zoram Mawia, Director, Mizoram			09436142594		
20.	Shri Jagmohan Jain, Bhilai Steel Plant			9907181864		
21.	Shri S. Shamim, Director National Fire Service College Nagpur-440001	0712- 2560075 2560179	0712- 2592107	9422118110	0712- 2560075	nfscngp@sanch ar.co.in
22.	Dr. G.A. Bhat, D. G.Fire & Emergency Services, J&K Hq. Batmloo, Srinagar 190001	0194- 2452068 2455061	0194- 2455077	09419118806	0941- 2452068	gabhat- dfes12@ rediffmail.com
23.	Shri R.C. Sharma, Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service Connaught Lane New Delhi- 110001	011- 23414000	23414262	9868040509	23412593	sharmarc-dfs@ rediffmail.com
24.	Shri S. Kumar GM (FS), AAI			09868277208		
25.	Dr. G.C. Mishra Dy. CFO, DFS New Delhi			09868022790		
26.	Shri K.U Ramesh, CFO Bangalore			9343311165		
27.	Dr. N. Naresh, Director			9448356009		

28.	Shri Shri H.W Ramathirtha, Chairman, LCRC, NIE, Mysore			9448351336		
29.	Shri P. Nimsway DCGHG Dy Director CD			9449085580		
30.	Shri V.K Sharma DIG/Fire, CISF			9911397961		
31.	Shri M.V Deshmukh, Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Govt. of Maharashtra, Vidhyanagar, Hans Bhugra Marg, Santacruz -East, Mantralaya Mumbai-400098	022- 26871144 26670339	022- 24913169	9821107580	0222- 6870325	mdeshmukh2 mideindia.org
32.	Shri G.B Menon Fire Advisor MHA (Retd.) "Nandavanam" No. 33/2965-A (Gr. Floor) Vennala High School Road, Vennala, Cochin -6082 028, Kerala					
33.	Shri D.P Biswas			9830068025		
34.	Shri K.C Wadhwa, Joint Director Ministry of Defence Brig S.K Mazumdar Road, Timarpur Delhi-54	011- 23907141	0124- 2254207	9810830150	011- 238819547	kc-wadhwa@ yahoo.co.in
35.	Shri Raghava N. The Hindu			9448455908		

36.	Shri Abinandan A.H			9980832778		
37.	Shri M. Tara, IG Tamil Nadu Fire Service			9840484411		
38.	Shri P.D Karauppar, CFO, Mumbai			9820198622		

APPENDIX '31-E'

No. VI-14022/1/SFAC-2(i)/03-DGCD(F)
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya
+++++

East Block 7, Level-7
R.K. Puram (Main)
New Delhi, the 7th April, 2004

To

Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs
Heads of Fire Services of all States/UTs

Sub : **Minimum Physical and Medical Fitness Standard for Undergoing Professional Courses of National fire Service College, Nagpur.**

Sir

I am directed to refer to the minutes of the 29th meeting of the SFAC on the subject mentioned above and to enclosed herewith the Minimum Physical and Medical Fitness Standard for undergoing professional courses of NFSC, Nagpur for information and further necessary action. These standards will be implemented with immediate effect in all professional courses conducted at NFSC, Nagpur and Regional Training Centres identified by this Ministry.

Yours faithfully

(D.K. Shami)
Dy. Fire Adviser
Tel. No. 26712951

Copy to :

All the members of the Standing Fire Advisory Council (as per list for information).

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON
MINIMUM PHYSICAL AND MEDICAL FITNESS
STANDARDS FOR UNDERGOING PROFESSIONAL COURSES OF
NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE, NAGPUR

VENUE : NATINAL FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE, NAGPUR
DATE : 22nd & 23rd December 2003
TIME : 1030 HRS.

As per the decision of the 30th meeting of Standing Fire Advisory Council, held on 10th and 11th December 2003 at New Delhi, and in the request made by Shri D. K. Shami, Dy. Fire Adviser, DGCD, vide his letter No. VI-14022/1/SFAC-2(i)/2003-DGCD(F), dated 15th December, the working group met on 23rd December 2003 at, National Fire Service College, (NFSC) Nagpur

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT

1. Shri R.C. Sharma Chief Fire Officer, Delgi Fire Service,
2. Shri M.V. Deshmukh, Fire Adviser, Govt. of Maharashtra,
3. Shri S. L. Nagarka, AIG (Fire), Central Industrial Security Force, New Delhi,
4. Dr. K. C. Wadhwa, Director, N.F.S.C. nagpur
5. Shri Shamim, Dy. Director, N.F.S.C. NAGPUR
6. Shri. D.K. Shami, Dy. Fire Adviser, D.G.C.D. Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi

Shri H. S. Kaparwan, joint Director, DRDO and Shri P.K. Rao, Dy. Director, U.P. Fire Service, could not attend the meeting due to other commitments.

The members have discussed the issue of Minimum Physical Fitness, Medical Fitness and Endurance Test for undergoing professional courses of N.F.S.C. for the following candidates :-

- 1) Private candidates of Sub-Officers Course & B.E. (Fire)
- 2) In-service candidates of all the professional courses.

The Eligibility, Physical Standard, Medical Standard and physical efficiency test for the private candidates of Sub-Officers Course are as under:-

ELIGIBILITY

Qualification : 10+2 with Science
Age : 18-25 yrs.

PHYSICAL STANDARD

Height : Male 165 cms.
Female 157 cms
Chest : Male -Unexpanded 81 cms
-Expanded 86 cms
Female -Unexpanded 77 cms.
-Expanded 82 cms.
Weight Corresponding to Height as per medical standards. (Annexure 'A')

MEDICAL STANDARDS :-

Visual:- Better eye - 6/6
Worse eye - 6/12
(Without optical device)
Candidates are required to pass colour vision Test

The candidate must not have knock-knees, flat feet, squint eyes and stammering. They must be in good mental and bodily health and free from any physical defect.

PHYSICAL EFFICIENCY TEST (P.E.T.)

The physical efficiency test will consist of the following events and the candidates shall have to qualify each of these events.

- a) High Jump - Minimum 3 ft. 6 inches.
- b) Long Jump - Minimum 12 ft.
- c) 800 mtr. Race - To be completed in Minimum 175 seconds.
- d) Chin up - Minimum 5 Nos.
- e) Push up - Minimum 15 Nos.

(The marking of P.E.T. events is attached in Annexure 'B')

HEIGHT WEIGHT READY RECKONOR FOR ADULT

			AVERAGE WEIGHT IN KILOGRAMS (IN INDOOR CLOTHING)						
			17-19 yrs.	20-24 yrs.	25-29 yrs.	30-39 yrs.	40-49 yrs.	50-59 yrs.	60-69 yrs.
MEN	ft.	----	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.
	5	2	54	58.1	60.8	62.1	63.5	64.6	63
	5	3	55.8	59.9	62.6	64	65.3	65.8	64.4
	5	4	57.6	61.7	64	65.8	67.1	67.6	66.2
	5	5	59.4	63	65.3	67.6	68.9	69.4	68
	5	6	61.2	64.4	67.1	69.4	70.8	71.2	69.9
	5	7	83	65.8	68.5	71.2	73	73.5	72.1
	5	8	64.9	67.6	70.3	73	74.8	75.3	73.9
	5	9	66.7	69.4	72.1	74.8	76.7	77.1	76.2
	5	10	68.5	71.5	73.9	77.1	78.9	79.4	78.5
	5	11	70.3	73	75.8	78.9	80.8	81.6	80.8
	6	0	72.6	75.3	78	81.2	83	83.9	83
	6	1	74.5	77.1	80.3	83	84.6	85.7	85.3
	6	2	76.2	78.9	82.6	85.3	87.1	88	87.5
	6	3	78	80.0	84.4	87.5	89.4	90.3	89.8
	6	4	79.8	86.2	86.2	90.3	92.1	93	92.5

			AVERAGE WEIGHT IN KILOGRAMS (IN INDOOR CLOTHING)						
			17-19 yrs.	20-24 yrs.	25-29 yrs.	30-39 yrs.	40-49 yrs.	50-59 yrs.	60-69 yrs.
WOMEN	ft.	----	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.
	5	2	44.9	46.3	48.5	52.2	55.7	56.7	57.6
	5	3	46.3	47.6	49.9	53.1	56.2	57.6	58.5
	5	4	47.6	49	51.3	54.4	57.6	59	59.4
	5	5	59.4	50.8	52.6	55.8	59	60.3	60.8
	5	6	51.3	52.2	54	57.2	60.3	61.7	62.1
	5	7	52.6	53.5	55.3	55.5	61.7	63.5	64.
	5	8	54.4	54.9	56.7	59.9	63.5	65.3	65.8
	5	9	56.2	56.7	58.5	61.2	64.9	67.1	67.6
	5	10	57.6	58.5	60.3	63	66.7	68.9	69.4
	5	11	59	59.9	61.7	64.4	68.5	70.8	71.2
	6	0	60.8	61.7	63.5	66.2	70.3	72.6	73
	6	1	62.6	63.5	65.3	68	72.1	74.4	74.8
	6	2	84.4	65.3	57.1	69.9	74.4	76.7	---
	6	3	66.7	67.6	69.4	72.5	76.7	78.9	---
	6	4	65.9	69.9		74.4	78.9	81	---

ANNEXURE-'B'

MARKING FOR PHYSICAL EFFICIENCY TEST

HIGH JUMP	3' 6" upto below 4 feet	-	3 marks
	4' upto below 4'6"	-	7 marks
	4' 6" and above	-	10 marks
LONG JUMP	12' to below 13'	-	5 marks
	13' to below 15'	-	7 marks
	15' and above	-	10 marks
800 Mtrs. RACE (Seconds)	175 to 165	-	7 marks
	164 to 155	-	9 marks
	154 to 145	-	11 marks
	144 to 135	-	13 marks
	134 and below	-	15 marks
Chin up (Times)	5	-	5 marks
	7	-	7 marks
	10	-	10 marks
Push up (Times)	15 to 19	-	2 marks
	20 to 24	-	3 marks
	25 & above	-	5 marks

ANNEXURE-'C'

PHYSICAL EFFICIENCY TEST FOR FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL UNDER VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

PHYSICAL EFFICIENCY	GRADING	PET UPTO 35 YRS. OF AGE	PET FROM 35 TO 45 YRS. OF AGE	PET FROM 45 YRS. OF AGE AND ABOVE
1 Jump & Reach	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	20" OR MORE 16" to 19" 12" to 15" Below 12"	18" or more 16" to 17" 13" to 16" Below 10"	
2 Chin Up	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	8 or more 6 to 7 4 to 5 Below 4	6 or more 4 to 5 3 Below 3	Not Applicable
3 Push up	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	20 or more 17 to 19 14 to 16 Below 14	15 or more 12 to 14 8 to 11 Below 8	Not Applicable
4 Sit Up	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	20 or more 17 to 19 14 to 16 Below 14	15 or more 12 to 14 8 to 11 Below 8	Not Applicable
5 One Mile Run	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	5 min. or less 5 min. to 6 min. 6 min. to 7 min. more than 7 min.	6 min. or less 6 min. to 7 min. 7 min. to 8 min. more than 8 min.	Not Applicable
6 One Mile Walk	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	15 min. or less 15 min. 16 min. 16 min. 17 min. more than 17min
7 Fireman's Lift	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	60 sec. or less 61 to 70 sec. 71 to 80 sec. 81 sec. or more	70 sec. or less 71 to 80 sec. 81 to 90 sec. 91 sec. or more	Not Applicable
8 2 Mile Run	Excellent V. Good Good Poor	14 min. 45 secs. or less 14 min. 46 secs. to 16 min. 45 secs. 16 min. 46 secs. to 17 min. 25 secs. more	15 min. 20 secs. or less 15 min. 21 secs. to 17 min. 45 secs. 17 min. 46 secs. to 20 min. 15 secs. or more	Not Applicable

APPENDIX '31-F'

No. VI-14022/1/SFAC-5/2003-DGCD(F)
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya
+++++

Jainsalmer House
Man Singh Road,
New Delhi-110011
the 18th June, 2003

To

1. All the Chief Secretaries in the States/UTs
2. Heads of Fire Services in the States/UTs

Sub : Syllabus for the training for fireman.

Sir

I am directed to refer to the minutes of the 29th meeting of the SFAC on the subject mentioned above and to enclosed herewith the syllabus for the training of firemen received from Delhi Fire Service for the adoption by all the State Governments in their training curriculum for the firemen to provide the uniformity in the training standards.

(D.K. Shami)
Dy. Fire Adviser
Tel. No. 23071169

Copy to : All the members of the Standing Fire Advisory Council (as per list for information).

SYLLABUS FOR SIX MONTH FIRE OPERATOR

1. CHEMISTRY OF FIRE

Combustion its contents causes and classes of fire. Extinguishing Fire methods available such as starvation smothering, cooling and advantage of water.

2. HOSE :-

Description of delivery hose its type, care and Maint. standard test and causes of decay.

SUCTION HOSE :-

Soft and Hard, its construction, care and Maintt. suspender.

3. HOSE FITTINGS :-

Delivery Hose coupling suction hose couplings, suction wranches, Branches and Nogs, Branch Holders, and monitors, stand pipe collating heads, suction stainers breaching Adaptors, Blank caps

4. LADDERS:-

Extn. Ladder, its parts and standard test.

Hook Ladder, T.T.L., ladder, T.T.L., (Brief description)

5. NOTESW & LINES :-

Names with qualities of material used for manufacturing ropes and lines in Fire service use. its maint. and standard test.

6. EXTINGUISHERS

a) Soda acid its type and application.

b) Water gas cartidge type and water stored pressure type.

c) Foam extinguishers.

d) Dry power chemical Fire extinguishers.

e) Co2 Fire extinguishers.

f) Nalon fire extinguishers. (only brief description) Description construction, refilling and methods of operation used advantages and disadvantages, care and maintt. of a,b,c, and d, type of fire extinguishers.

7. MACHANICAL FOEM AND FOAM MAKING EQUIPMENTS.

Brief description of foam marking equipments and type of foam used in regular fire extinguishers.

8. BREATHING APPARATUS.

Function of oxygen in maintaining life composition of air and importance of B.A. set in fire service.

Type (a) atmospheric (b) self contained.

1) Open circuit 2) Close circuit.

Names and functions of its parts operational use, method of wearing signals, recharging care, maint. and testing.

9. HYDRAULICS

Composition of water and simple problem on tank cap.

10. APPLIANCES

Knowledge of various appliances in Delhi Fire Services and their stationing.

11. SMALL GEARS

- a) Breaking away glares Hammers, Chisel, solopicks pick axe, Crow- Bar, door opener.
- b) Cutting away gears: axe, lock or bolt cutter, wood saw. cut saw hack saw, chopper, hay Knives.
- c) Rescue Gears: Jumping sheet, automatic as cape, sling bolt, safety well hook, life jacket, stratcher, first aid box, linos, fireman's axe, rubber gloves, gum boots helmet, ceiling hook.
- d) Lights: Hurricane jump, paraffin lamp, S.A., Lamp. flood Light, electric torch.
- e) Turning over gear: obowela, spades, fork, drage hook calling hook, pluskey tools.\
- f) Transport gear: life jacket, starting handle, cutter plier, screw driver, D.E.Spanner, screw & pipe wrenches gland spanner, plug spanner type lever wheel brakes, grease gun, dil cane hammer file.
- g) Miscellaneous & special gears: Dockets, blower & oxhauster, welding-cutting set, electric generator chain saw, abbastors suit, blankets firm bell, rocking atretchers automatic a scape, fire beathers, resuscitation apratus.

12. PUMPS AND PRIMERS

Brief description of pump, types of pump and their uses in fire services.

Description of centrifugal pump its parts advantage and disadvantages, type of pump such and their classification as per discharge can.

13. WATER RELAY

Defination , Type (Open close and collector pumping) names of pump at different positions, supply pump, intermediate pump, delivery pump). spacing of pump advantages and disadvantages, important points for carrying out relay and study of guages.

14. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Daterial used and their behavior in fire, brief idea of column, beam, joints and walls with openings causes and sings of collapse.

15. WATCH ROOM PROCEDURE

Defination and requirements of watch room and control room, receiving and transmitting of telephone calls, maintenance of Occurrence book and its importance, standard message.

16. PRACTICAL FIREMAN SHIP

Qualifies of fireman and -1) Duties at station, Turn out 2) Duties in way to fire (Traffic Regulation Fire bell Road accident 3) Duties on reaching the spot (Quick survey and resporting to the control point to the control points of the first attendance, sending massages , Planing of pumps, setting into hydrants, laying of hose, methods of entry, rescue removal of bodies, working in smoke or darkness, room searching, finking and fighting the fire 4) After the fire (making up duties on return to station)

17. SALVAGE

Definition: Damage (Direct, Indirect) Equipment required for salvage work, cleaning of water form Building, reducing water and smoke damage.

18. KNOTS

Running and standing part loop, bight, half hitch, thumb or over hand Knot fly. of sight, carrick, raaf knot, clove hitch, single draw hitch, slippery hitch ship shank, can't paw, bowline, running bowline, bowline on the bite, block will hitch, mid ship man hitch, water man's hitch, chair knot, barrel or drum hitch, splicing (short, eye, back)

19. Difficulties (Means of communication) delay in fire call, road condition, lack of water supply system, combustible nature of dwellings and stocks, causes of village fire, normal appliances for the village fire, house and branches, methods of fighting the fire, fire beaters wind ward, Ice ward, fire break, counter firing natural fire break.

WATER SUPPLY

20. Sources: 1) hydrants, types, construction, parts care & maintt. of screw down and sluice valve type hydrants hydts. gears of fittings.

2. Static Tanks.

3. Well and other sources.

21. ELECTRICITY

sources of electricity and its productions brie description of transformer, fuses, short circuit and fire fighting of electric appliances, fireman switch and its use.

22. SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS

swire rescue, drowning, Road Accidents, electrocuted Railway accident, leakage of gases and lift rescue.

23. DISCIPLINE

Definition, How discipline is produced order s, outward sign of discipline, discipline is art, Importance of discipline in fire Services.

24. TOPOGRAPHY AND FIREMAN

A) Its importance and use.

25. FIRST AID

Artificial Breathing, Carrying of casualty, fireman's lift Fractures, Snake bite and burns.

26. GASES FIRE

Its extinguishment and precautions.

27. COMMUNICATION ON D.S.F. WITH OTHER SERVICES.

1. Communication with folic Control Room., Deus, Water supply and its Importance.
2. Different calls signs and methods of addressing.

28. FIRE PREVENTION IN MULTI STORY BUILDING

1. Construction of Building

2. Fire detection system.
3. Fixed Fire fighting Installation.
4. Provision of first Aid-Fire fighting equipment.

29. WIRELESS SYSTEM :

Definition of Wireless, Communication of control room D.F.S. on fire & rescue, scan Definition of frequency channel. Kinds of set used in D.F.S. range of communication call signs address.

30. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Different range in D.F.S. total no. of Fire station names of seniors officers.

FIRE DRILLS

1. P. T.
2. Squad Drill and saluting.
3. Reporting officers.
4. Nose Drill.
5. Hydrant Drill
6. Pump Drill. (Open water and coise water, using soft and H.
7. Water tender Drill
8. Extension Ladder Drill. (Lag Lock and Log Holding)
9. Water with Extn. Ladder. (L2 Drill with water Tender)
10. Singles used in Fire Services.
11. Digging and removal of earth & Debris.
12. Practical Relay (un sing branching, collecting Heads)
13. P. A. set Drill (wearing and signals)
14. Pick up drill.
15. Fireman's Lift from extn. Ladder.
16. Emergency methods of rescue, by chair knots, ropes sliding.
17. Ruscus from deep wells., Ruscus from River, and Sowers rescue.
18. Methods of Artificial respiration.
19. Working in smoke and darkness, room searching, fireman's cranl .
20. Knots and lines used in Ice services.

CHAPTER FOR PAPER 2ND

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>Name</u>
1.	CHEMISTRY OF FIRE.
2.	EXTINGUISHERS.
3.	HYD POLICIS.
4.	GAS FIRE
5.	WATER RELAY
6.	RURAL FIRE
7.	DISCIPLINE
8.	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
9.	WATCH ROOM
	PROCEDURE

10. SPECIAL SERVICES
11. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE(OFS. RANKS)
12. PRACTICAL FIRE MANSHIP
13. FIRE PREVENTIONING IN MULTY STOREY BUILDING.
14. ELECTRICITY.

CHAPTER FOR PAPER 2ND

1. HOUSE AND HOSE FITTINGS
2. LADDERS
3. ROPES AND LINE
4. FORM AND FORM MAKING EQUIPMENT (ONLY BRIEF DESCRIPTION)
5. R. A. SETS.
6. APPLIANCES
7. SMALL GEARS
8. PUMPS AND PRIMERS
9. SALVAGE
10. WATER SUPPLY AND HYDRANTS
11. DISCIPLINE
12. TOP OG RAPILY AND FIRE
13. FIRST AID

APPENDIX '31-G'

No. VI-14022/1/SFAC-16/2003-DGCD(F)
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantraya

Jaisalmer House,
Man Singh Road,
New Delhi-110001
the 19th June, 2003

To,

1. The Chief Secretary of all the States/UTs.
2. heads of the Fire Service of all the States/UTs.

Subject:- Sub-Committee report of Uniform badges of Ranks for Indian Fire Service Professionals, Terrycot Uniform, Professional Heads for fire service, Separates Post of D.G.Fire. Ranks For Fire Service.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Minutes of the 29th Meeting of Standing Fire Advisory Council on the subject mentioned above and to say that a Sub-Committee was formed in the 27th SFAC to make recommendations on following items:-

- Item No.1- Uniform badges of rank for Fire Services Professionals.
- Item No. 2- Terrycot uniform for the operational officers and Personnel of the Fire Services.
- Item No. 3- Professional heads for Fire Services.
- Item No. 4- Separate post of DG Fire.
- Item No. 5- Ranks for Fire Services according to size of command.

2. The report was circulated and discussed in 28th Meeting where Members decided to further review the report. Comments were asked from the members but nobody replied.

3. The report was further discussed in the 29th SFAC Meeting and decided to accept the report and circulate to the States as broad guidelines for implementation suggesting that higher-level officer including chiefs in the rank of DG should be fire professionals.

4. Copy of the report is enclosed.

Yours faithfully

(D.K. Shami)
Dy. Fire Advisor
Tel No. 23071169

Copy : All the members of Standing Fire Advisory Council (as per list) for Information.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING SUB COMMITTEE UNDER THE STANDING FIRE ADVISORY
COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

AUTHORITY : Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Letter
No. VI-14022/2/96 DGSD (F) dated 19th February, 1996.

COMPOSITION OF SUB COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Shri S.K. Dheri
Chief Fire Officer
Delhi Fire Service | Convener |
| 2. | Shri B.Pathak
Director
West Bengal Fire Service | Member |
| 3. | Shri D.J. Kulkarni
Chief Fire Officer
Bombay Fire Brigade | Member |
| 4. | Shri V.Jaya Perumal
Director
Tamilnadu Fire Service | Member |

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To examine the item nos. 6, 7, 8, 13, and 23 of the agenda discussed during 27 SFAC Meeting held on 30th & 31st Day of May 1995 at New Delhi and forward report to MHA within six month.s

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Item No. 6- | Uniform badges of rank for Fire Services Professionals. |
| Item No. 7- | Terrycot uniform for the operational officers and Personnel of the Fire Services. |
| Item No. 8- | Professional Heads for Fire Services. |
| Item No. 13- | Separate Post of D.G. Fire. |
| Item No. 23- | Ranks for Fire Services according to sieze of command. |

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING FIRE ADVISORY CUNCIL

ITEM NO. 6: UNIFORM BADGES OF RANK FOR FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS.

Keeping in view, the growth of Fire Services in the country and thus, the size of command the SFAC recommends the following rank markings for various ranks in the Fire Services.

Sr. No.	Rank	Badges of Rank *
1.	Fire Man	Shoulder titles
2.	i) Leading Fireman	One bar ½" wide and 1-1/2" long with semi circular cross section flat with bottom surface and round surface on top made out of white metal to the worn ½" from the bottom end of both shoulder straps.
	ii) Driver	2" dais, 3 spoked steering wheel embroidered in white on blue back ground worn on the right sleeve halfway between the shoulder and the elbow.
3.	Sub-Officer	One small impeller ¾" dia.
4.	Assistant Station Officer	Two small impeller ¾" dia.
5.	Station Officer	Three small impellers 1" dia in a semi circular wreath
6.	Assistant Director/Assistant Commissioner/Asstt. Fire Marshal/Divisional Officer/Dy. Fire Officer/Supdt.	Large small impellers 1" dia in a semi Circular wreath.
7.	Deputy Director/Dy. Assistant Fire Commissioner/Dy. Asstt. Fire Marshal/Asstt. Divisional Officer/Dy. Fire Officer/Supdt.	Large small impellers 1" dia in a semi Circular wreath surmounted by one small impeller ¾" in dia.
* The head gear, neck gear and flag car decorations have been presented appendix 'C', 'D', 'E' & 'F' for various ranks.		
8.	Joint Director/Deputy Commissioner/Deputy Fire Marshal/Dy. Chief Fire Officer/ Fire Officer.	Large impeller 1 "dia in a semi circular wreath surmounted by two small impeller ¾" in dia.
9.	Addl. Director/Additional Commissioner Addl. Fire Marshal/Addl. Chief Fire Officer.	Large impeller 1 " dia in a semi Circular wreath surmounted by three Small impellers ¾ " in dia.
10.	Director Fire Service/ Fire Commissioner/Fire Marshal/Chief Fire Officer	Cross sword & baton with Ashoka emblem in case of Govt. owned Fire Services and cross Sword & baton with one 1" dia Impeller in case Fire Services under the control of local bodies.
11.	Director General Fire Service	Cross Sword & baton with Ashoka emblem and one eight Points star for Govt. owned Fire Services and cross sword & baton with 1" dia impeller and ¾ " dia impeller in Case of fire Service under the control of Local bodies.

Item No. 7 TERRYCOT UNIFORM FOR OPERATIONAL OFFICERS AND PERSONNAL OF FIRE SERVICES.

Issue of terrycot uniform for operational officers and personnel of the fire services has been considered in light of the research findings of a study done at the Centre for Biochemical Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi with a World Health Organisation Grant (findings enclosed - Appendix 'A' & 'B') and recommends

"The issue of cotton uniform including overall to operational Fire Officer and other members of the Fire Services be dispensed with hereafter and instead, terrycot uniform be issued while overalls shall be made out of Fire Retardant Cloth and heat resistance suitable of appropriate scale".

ITEM No. 8 PROFESSIONAL HEADS OF THE FIRE SERVICE

The expert committee on firefighting setup by the Government of India via G.O. No. 44/14/50 - Public dated 23-3-1950 recommended at Sr. No. 13 separation of Police and Fire Forces in order to ensure technical efficiency and convenience from administrative point of view and the Government of India communicated their decision vide Ministry of Home Affairs letter No. 33/50- CD dated 5/1/1952 reproduced below :-

"The Government of India agree in principle that provincialized Fire Services, where they exist should work directly under Government (whether in Home or the LSG Department) and not under the Inspector General of Police.

ITEM NO. 13 SEPARATE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL FIRE

This SFAC recommends that a separate post of Director General Fire be created in Ministry of Home Affairs in line with Director General Civil Defence who shall be responsible for planning/reviewing of training for Fire Service personnel in India and abroad, providing technical know-how on the state of art, standardisation of fire service equip and appliances and vested with rights of inspection of Civil/Industrial Fire Service besides co-ordination between State and the Center.

He shall be responsible for the following:-

- a) To closely co-ordinate the activities of all the fire services in the country.
- b) To formulate the policies and guidelines in the matters of resource management, including man-power management, training standardisation of equipments, research & development, collection of fire statistics, fire protection, fire prevention and fire engineering and other matters of common concern to the fire services and community at large.
- c) To be responsible for the management of training facilities assured by the Ministry of Home Affairs or any other Ministry of Home Affairs or any other Minister in the Central Government.
- d) To promote close and regular interaction among fire services and their personnel and with all the industries and other Government Ministers interconnected matters of the fire protection and fire prevention.

ITEM No. 23 : RANKS FOR FIRE SERVICES ACCORDING TO SIZE OF COMMAND

The SFAC recommends that due to rural -urban migration of population betterment in the living standard, growing trend in high-rise culture, increasing use of plastic in the construction and furnishing of buildings the risk to life and property has increasing manifold and thus, the size of command in the Fire Service. It is, therefore necessary that the ranks, for Fire Service vide appendix '10-B' of the SFAC compendium be reviewed according to the size of command. For this purpose, the committee categorized the cities according to the population as under:-

CATEGORY A	Cities having population more than 1 crore. (Rank to start from Director General).
CATEGORY B	Cities having population more than 50 lakhs and Upto 1 crore. (Rank to start from Director).
CATEGORY C	Cities having population more than 20 lakhs and Upto 50 1 lakhs. (Rank to start from Addl. Director).
CATEGORY D	Cities having population more than 10 lakhs and Upto 20 lakhs. (Rank to start from DCFO and to be know as Fire Officer).
CATEGORY E	Cities having population more than 10 lakhs (Rank to start from Supdt., Dy. Supdt.. and Assistant Supdt.).
INDUSTRIAL TOWNS	Towns having 2000 or more industrial having a work force of 25000 persons or more.
DISTRICT FIRE STATION	Fire Station at District level in a provincialized Fire Service.
COMMISSIONARY FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS	Fire Service Head Quarters in the Commissionary/zone to be headed by the officer not below the rank of Joint Director/Deputy Commissioner Fire Service.

* In case of hilly States, the population norms shall not be applied due to the fact that in such States area and risk is comparatively more with respect to population density and total population.

The SFAC further recommend the following rank structure force Fire Service according to the size of command.

Rank Structure for Provincialized Fire Service/Category 'A' City/State/U.T	Rank Structure for Fire Service under the Municipal corporation in cities having population 50 lakhs to 1 crore	Rank Structure for Fire Service under the Municipal corporation in cities having population 20 lakhs to 50 lakhs	Rank Structure for Fire Service under the Municipal corporation in cities having population 10 lakhs to 20 lakhs	
Diorector General Fire Service				
Diorector Fire Service	Commissioner/Fire Marshal	Chief Fire Officer	-	-
Additional Director	Additional Commissioner/Addl. Fire Marshal	Addl. Chief Fire Officer	-	-
Joint Director	Deputy Commissioner/ Deputy Fire Marshal	Dy. Chief Fire Officer	Fire Officerf	-
Dy. Director	Asstt. Commissioner/Asstt. Fire Marshal	Divisional Officer	Dy. Fire Officer	Supdt.
Asstt. Director	Dy. Asstt. Commissioner/Dy. Asstt. Fire Marshal	Asstt. Divisional Officer	Asstt. Fire Officer	Deputy Supdt.
Station Officer	Station Officer	Station Officer	Station Officer	Station Officer
Asstt. Station Officer	Asstt. Station Officer	Asstt. Station Officer	Asstt. Station Officer	Asstt. Station Officer
Sub Officer	Sub Officer	Sub Officer	Sub Officer	Sub Officer
Leading Fireman/Driver	Leading Fireman/Driver	Leading Fireman/Driver	Leading Fireman/Driver	Leading Fireman/Driver
Fireman	Fireman	Fireman	Fireman	Fireman

※※ The post of D.G./Fire shall be based on the norm that he has 4000 *** or more personnel under his command.

The figure of 4000 is recommended taking into consideration the shift hrs. system up to the rank of Leading Fireman and below and proportionate shall be given to this effect in case of Fire Service have other duty system.

In case of hilly States, the population norms shall not be applied due to the fact in such areas the population scatters and fire risk is higher due to forestation, non availability of water sources and difficult approach due to hilly terrain.

RANK STRUCTURE FOR FIRE SERVICE HEAD QUARTERS AT COMMISSIONARY LEVEL

RANK STRUCTURE FOR PROVINCIALIZED FIRE SERVICE	RANK STRUCTURE FOR FIRE SERVICE UNDER THE CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN CITIES HAVING POPULATION 50 LAKHS AND ABOVE
Joint Director	Deputy Commissioner Fire Service
Deputy Director	Assistant Commissioner Fire Service
Assistant Director	Deputy Assistant Commissioner Fire Service
Station Officer	Station Officer
Assistant Station Officer	Assistant Station Officer
Sub Officer	Sub Officer
Leading Fireman/Driver	Leading Fireman/Driver
Fireman	Fireman

RANK STRUCTURE FOR DISTRICT FIRE STATION

POPULATION 10 LAKHS AND ABOVE UPTO 20 LAKHS	POPULATION BELOW 10 LAKHS
District Fire Officer	
Assistant District Fire Officer Station Officer	Station Officer
Assistant Station Office	Assistant Station Office
Sub Officer	Sub Officer
Leading Fireman/Driver	Leading Fireman/Driver
Fireman	Fireman

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only of the flame characteristics of various Indian fabrics under conditions replicating real life fire situations, has demolished a popular myth that cotton garments are safer than those made from synthetic fibres.

Based on the findings of the study, researchers have recommended that loose flowing garments are more hazardous than thicker tight clothing. And people should not be advised to wear cotton instead of synthetic fibres in such a fire-prone or fire-susceptible area.

The two-year study, sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO), was carried out by the Centre for Fire and Technology, based in Delhi. The centre is an offshoot of the World Health Organisation for Research and Training in Safety Technology.

BURNING BEHAVIOUR

While fire safety research has mostly been centred on the burning behaviour of fabrics in different settings, these studies have not covered Indian fabrics and garments.

Their conclusions characterise most of office and residential furnishings, particularly curtains, upholstery and furniture, as being more flammable than clothing.

These studies have helped to develop international standards of fire safety. The British Standard, which the IIT team for the WHO study says they replicate is BS 1157 (1936), BS 690 (1938) and BS 691 (1938) which have been adopted in India.

1. They are restricted to a strip test which does not reflect a real life fire situation. Strip tests provide very limited information on the burning characteristics of a cloth when actually catches fire.

2. The effect of dress type is not covered. Loose flowing and tight-fitting garments have different burning characteristics.

3. Most standards are for domestic use. Places of the commonwealth in America and other countries have been carried out on Indian designs and materials.

OVERCOMING LIMITATIONS

The study has attempted to overcome all these limitations. In order to get valid data, a strip test would not provide, a burn facility was designed and set up at the



DINESH SHARMA

How safe is Indian clothing?

DINESH SHARMA, our correspondent from India, brings news of a study of the burning characteristics of various Indian fabrics and suggests that US import bans on some of types of Indian clothing could be unjustified.

Studies at IIT showed that it is possible to accurately replicate the thermal properties of Indian fabrics by using a bath of burning oil, oil-purified iron filled with de-aired water. Such a manometer was fabricated for the study. The manometer was connected to the chimney and led into a data acquisition system to record temperature changes in real time.

The burning was done using carbon tetrachloride and kerosene. It was then injected in the dress to be tested. The lighting tray contained carbon waste sprayer with kerosene, which was then ignited and placed under the chimney. After each test, the dressing was cleaned and prepared for the next test.

The raw data recorded from the manometer was used to generate time-temperature histories. This data was analysed using with still photo-graphs, video-recording and visual observations made during each test.

The parameters used for comparing results are:

- 1. Ignition delay
- 2. Burn times
- 3. Peak temperatures
- 4. Relative temperature durations
- 5. Flame penetration into the sample prior to initiation of the fabric from melting and ejection of melt.
- 6. The undergarment effects of dress type and fabric: a wide range of dresses were used in the tests. These could be broadly classed as loose flowing, tight and women's dresses. Many clothing tested for their combustion characteristics were party and shirt, knee-length, short-sleeved Indian dresses and long, ka-fong, piece of cloth which is worn as a skirt or dhoti.

The source of burning dress that covers the entire body, saris, kurtas (a loose-fitting loose dress), and angarakas (the

loose-fitting dress) were used for testing. For each of these dress types, burn tests were carried out for the commonly used fabrics—viz cotton, terrycotton, polyester silk and various other blends. All garments were first washed with water to remove any finish.

The study concludes that strip tests provide only limited information on burning characteristics of a fabric. The tests revealed that loose flowing garments were more flammable and loose fitting, tight-fitting dresses, strip tests (carried) by hand with any degree of certainty.

A major finding of the study is that loose flowing garments are very volatile. The results of these tests are very large a spread quickly over the garment. Shortly after ignition, the flames engulf the dressing completely. The loose-fitting dresses do not fall off during the burning process and are likely to be a long time.

In contrast, the short-sleeved, tight-fitting dresses are always located. The burn time is less than one second. It is not possible

to study the fabric has a tendency to fall away. The flame also is very hot. The only fabric that has a tendency to fall away is cotton. The flame, large and intense quickly across the dress, resulting in high temperatures.

A comparison of burn characteristics of loose and tight fitting garments reveals that tight fittings are always much safer. Loose fitting garments, such as nightgowns, saris and kurtas, burn more vigorously than tight fitting garments like jeans, shirts, and trousers which have closely around the chimney and burn in all.

On the basis of these results, Dinesh Sharma recommends that all loose flowing garments are more hazardous than tight fitting garments.

These tests dispel the myth that it is safer to wear a cotton sari while cooking in the kitchen, he says, and recommends that saris, both cotton and synthetic, should be made safer by using flame-retardant dyes on the fabric.

However, others involved in fire safety do not agree. S K Bhatt, Delhi's chief fire officer, said, when contacted, that he had only seen a television report on the study but, he said, it would not be wise to advise people that cottons are not safer, before the results of the IIT study are shared with all concerned agencies and discussed with a large forum.

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

The Indian Government has recently issued guidelines that bar the use of synthetic materials in tents. This follows the Bhawal school fire in which 44 people perished. Mr. Dehri said that the recommended use of cotton for tents was based on observations that synthetic tents, once they catch fire, start falling and burning pieces make the fire spread faster.

Dinesh Sharma replied that his study was limited to personal clothing and did not cover upholstery or materials used for tents. Scientists at the Defence Institute of Fire Research, which conducts research in various aspects of fire engineering and has a separate protective clothing division, refused to comment on the IIT findings.

The findings of the study also contradict the US Government's contention that synthetic rayon skirts exported from India to the US are highly flammable. Based on this, the US last year banned these exports from India, hitting the garment industry hard. Following this ban, it was made mandatory for all exporters to have flame tests carried out on skirts before exporting them to the US. However, export of rayon skirts continues.

The study has thrown up some important conclusions and issues relating to a number of other aspects of fire safety.

The findings of the study also contradict the US Government's contention that synthetic rayon skirts exported from India to the US are highly flammable...

report says cottons catch fire more easily than synthetics

Business of India New Service
NEW DELHI, MAY 11
TO: ALL MEMBERS
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: CASH CREDIT
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED
THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE
TO BE ADVISED THAT
THE CASH CREDIT
LIMITS OF ALL MEMBERS
ARE TO BE REVIEWED
ON A REGULAR BASIS
AND THE LIMITS ARE
TO BE ADJUSTED
AS AND WHEN
NECESSARY.

There are many reasons why the American people should be interested in the work of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. First, the work of the ASPCA is to protect the lives of animals, which is a noble and worthy cause. Second, the ASPCA is a non-profit organization, which means that all the money raised is used for the benefit of the animals. Third, the ASPCA is a national organization, which means that it has a wide reach and can help animals in many different parts of the country. Fourth, the ASPCA is a well-known organization, which means that it has a large following and can raise a lot of money. Finally, the ASPCA is a very effective organization, which means that it has a high success rate in helping animals.

38. Phone and mail boxes are not to be used for anything but company communications. Do not hang anything on them.

But, in more than half the meetings, a spokeswoman said, a person with a book is not a person with a book. It is a person, regardless of the book, who is important and is the focus of the program. There are all kinds of programs. There are all kinds of books and the first words of the book and the first words of the book are the first words of the book and the first words of the book are the first words of the book and the first words of the book are the first words of the book.

1. *Chrysomelids*: *Chrysomelids* are beetles that are often found on plants. They are often found on plants that are in the family *Chrysomelidae*. They are often found on plants that are in the family *Chrysomelidae*.

a 6000-salt mixture for 15 minutes, found the study participants to be significantly more accurate and precise than the control group.

to about 90°C; flames struck; smoke rose with trailer, but flames did not penetrate. If a person were standing over a burner, there's burning vapor or a fire hazard to 700 ft above.

the 1980s, the 1990s, and the 2000s. The 1980s were a time of great change for the world, with the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the global economy. The 1990s were a time of great change for the world, with the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the global economy. The 2000s were a time of great change for the world, with the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the global economy.

Oliver Moore, head of the Center, says the idea for the study began around six years ago when many young people in the area began to go to church again.

...to their back-

The virus was reisolated and when the WIOM was further purified, then rechecked in detail.

the family was the father, who, in a hollow country, filled with de-
serted water. The country was
filled in hundreds of various in-
terests down to the mountains.
The thermal properties were
preserved to make the human
body. After each drinking, the
country was a country, which is

To summarize in comparing the two studies, the results of the present study are in line with the findings of the first Earth experiment — they did not find a significant difference in the amount of time spent in the two conditions.

comparing this to thick, fly ver-

“We are not saying cocaine is bad or that it has caused the problems of Miami,” he said.

[illegible][illegible]

For information, contact the
National Center for
Human Resources Development
at 1-800-368-2767.

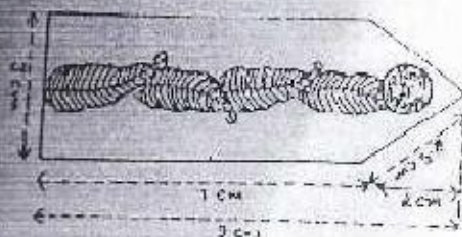
HEAD DRESS

APPENDIX "C"

RANK	PIRED TAG	HELMET
Director General Fire Service	Two rows of silver oak leaves on peak, embossed badge and black band palced around the head band	White with one 38 mm black band surmounted by 12.5 mm black band with 12.5 mm separation
Director Fire Service/ Fire Commissioner/ Fire Marshal	- do -	White with one 38 mm black band
Asst. Director/ Asst. Commissioner/ Asst. Fire Marshal/ Chief Fire Officer	One row of silver oak leaves on peak, embossed badge and black band placed around the head band	White with two 17mm black band with 12.5 mm separation
Joint Director/ Deputy Commissioner/ Dy. Fire Marshal/ Dy. Chief Fire Officer/ Fire Officer	- do -	White with one 18 mm black band surmounted by 12.5 mm band with 12.5 mm separation
Dy. Director/ Asst. Commissioner/ Asst. Fire Marshal/ Divisional Officer/ Deputy Fire Officer/ Supdt.	Plain peak with embossed badge	White with three 12.5 mm black band with 12.5 mm separation
Asst. Director/ Deputy Asst. Commissioner/ Dy. Asst. Fire Marshal/ Asst. Div. Officer/ Asst. Fire Officer/ Deputy Supdt.	- do -	White with two 12.5 mm black band
Station Officer	Plain peak with metal badge	Yellow with one 12.5 mm black
Asst. Station Officer	Plain peak with metal badge	Yellow
Sub Officer	- do -	- do -
Learning Fireman/ Driver/ Fireman	Black with metal badge	Black

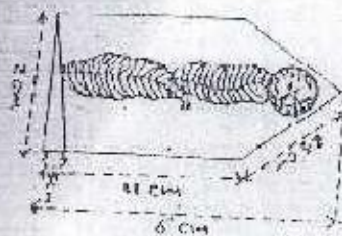
*SILVER HAWK EMBROIDERY
BLUE BLACK GORGET PATCHES FOR VARIOUS RANKS.

GORGET PATCH

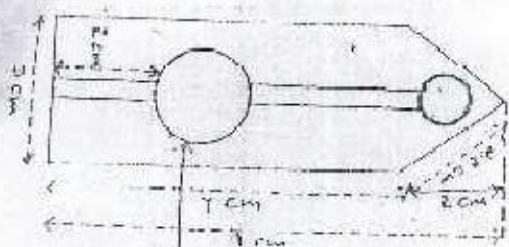


AUTHORISED RANKS

Director General Fire Services

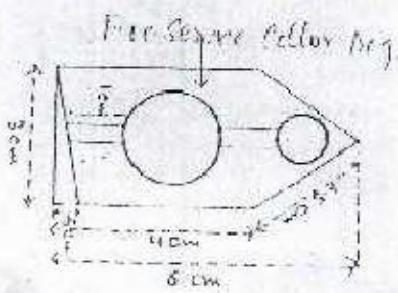


Director/Commissioner/Fire Marshal/
Chief Fire Officer/Additional
Director/Additional Commissioner



Joint Director/Deputy Commissioner/
Deputy Fire Marshal/Deputy Chief
Fire Officer.

Fire Service Collar Bar

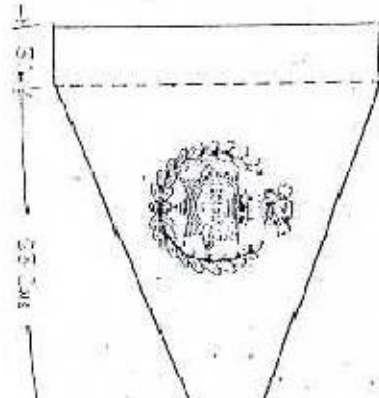
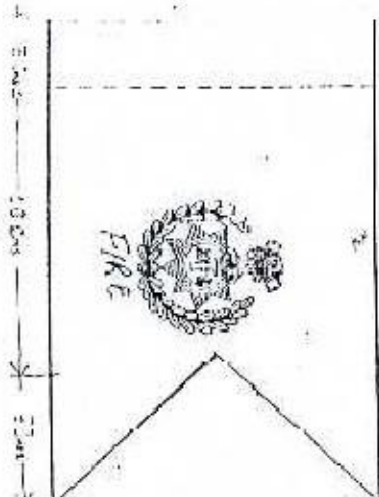
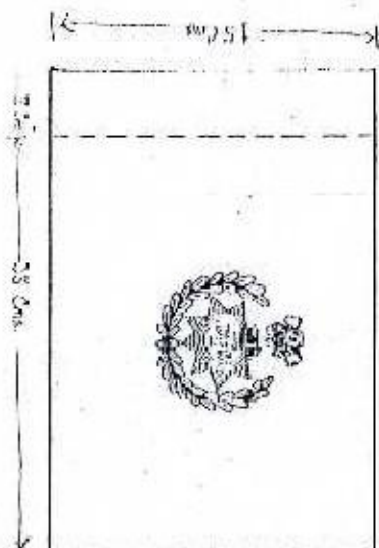


Fire Service Collar Bar

Deputy Director/Assistant Commissioner/
Assistant Fire Marshal/Divisional
Officer.

CAR FLAGS FOR VARIOUS RANKS

APPENDIX



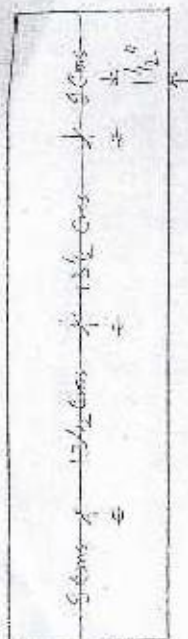
Flag made out of blue black blazer cloth with dimensions shown above for use on corner of Staff Car used by the Director General Fire Service

Flag made out of blue black blazer cloth with dimensions shown above for use on corner of Staff Car used by the Director/Commissioner/Chief Marshal/Chief Fire Officer

Flag made out of blue black blazer cloth with dimensions shown above for use on corner of Staff Car used by the Additional Director/Additional Commissioner/Additional Marshal/Additional Chief Officer

BLUE STAR PLATES FOR VARIOUS RANKS TO BE DISPLAYED ON STATE CAR

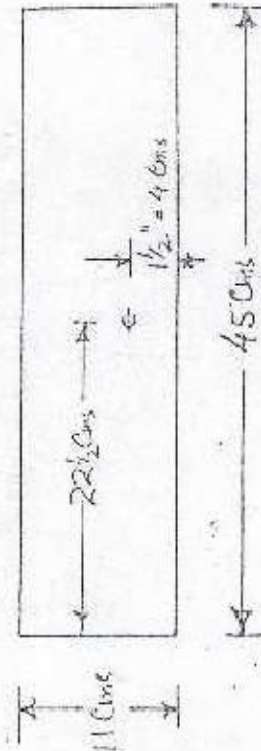
APPENDIX



Star plate to be used on the front & rear side bumper of the state car used by Director General, Fire Service.



Star plate to be used on the front & rear side bumper of the State Car used by Director/Commissioner/Police Marshal/Chief Fire Officer.



Star plate to be used on the front and rear side bumper of the State Car by Additional Director/Additional Commissioner/Additional Fire Marshal/Additional Chief Fire Officer.

* The eight point Star used on the Star plates shall be not less than 3" in diameter.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL

ITEM No. 6 : UNIFORM BADGES OF RANK FOR FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS.

Keeping in view, the growth of Service in the country and thus, the size of command the SFAC recommends the following rank markings for various ranks in the Fire Services.

Sr. No.	Ranks	Badges of Rank *
1.	Fire man	Shoulder title
2.	i) Leading Fireman	One bar ½" wide and 1-1/2" long with semi circular cross section flat with bottom surface on top made out of white metal to the worn ½" from the bottom end of both shoulder straps.
	ii) Driver	2" dia, 3 spoked steering wheel embroidered in white on blue back ground worn on the right sleeve halfway between the shoulder and the elbow.
3.	Sub-Officer	One small impeller ¾" dia
4.	Assistant Station Officer	Two small impellers ¾" dia
5.	Station Officer	Three small impeller ¾" dia
6.	Asst. Director/Dy. Asst. Fire Commissioner/Dy. Asstt. Fire Marshal/ Asstt. Divisional Officer/Asstt. Fire Officer/Dy. Supdt.	Large impellers 1" dia a semi Circular wreath.
7.	Deputy Director/Assistant Commissioner/Asstt Fire Marshal/Divisional Officer/Asstt. Fire Officer/Dy. Supdt.	Large impeller 1" dia in a semi circular wreath surmounted by one small impeller ¾" in dia

* The head gear, neck gear and flag car decorations have been presented appendix 'C','D','E' & 'F' for various ranks.

No. VI-4022/1/SFAC-16/2003-DGCD(F)
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya

Jaisalmer House
Man Singh Road,
New Delhi-110001
the 3rd July, 2003

To

1. The Chief Secretary of all the States/STs.
2. Heads of the Fire Service of all the States/UTs.

Subject : Sub-Committee report on Uniform badges of Ranks for Indian Fire Service Professionals, Terry cot Uniform, Professional Head for fire service, Separate Post of D.G. Fire, Ranks For Service.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 19th June, 2003 on the subject noted above and to say that some typing mistake has been noticed on page No. 2 at Serial No. 5, 6 & 7 under Item No. 6 of the Sub-Committee Report. The Sr. No. 5, 6 and 7 be read as under:-

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 5. | Station Officer | Three small impellers 3/4" dia |
| 6. | Asst. Director/Dy. Asst. Fire
Commissioner/Dy. Asst
Fire Marshal/Asstt. Divisional
Officer/Asstt. Fire Officer/Dy. Supdt. | Large impellers 1" dia in a semi Circular wreath. |
| 7. | Deputy Director/Assistant
Commissioner/Asstt.
Fire Marshal/Divisional
Officer/Dy. Fire Officer/Supdt. | Large impellers 1" dia in a semi Circular wreath surmounted
by one small impeller 3/4" in dia |

You are requested to either make necessary corrections at page No. 2 in the report available with you or replace page No. 2 with the corrected page. (Copy enclosed)

Yours faithfully,

(D.K. Shami)
Dy. Fire Advisor
Tel. No. 23071169

Copy : All the Members of Standing Fire Advisory Council (as per list) for Information.