



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Finance
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth

25 February, 2010

Dear Yeddyurappaji,

This is with reference to the recent fire accident at the Carlton Towers building in Bangalore on 23 February, 2010.

1. Safety Audit of Buildings

I am glad that the Government has initiated a safety audit of all multi-storey buildings in Bangalore in a comprehensive manner. I recommend that the report of this audit be made available to the public, so that citizens are aware of unsafe buildings etc.

2. Review of Emergency Services Infrastructure and Preparedness

I further recommend an urgent review of civil defence preparedness and equipment for the Fire and Emergency services. This will address some of the concerns that our Emergency forces are not adequately equipped.

3. Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure for Crowds by Police

In addition, one of the observations from the incident was that that hundreds of people were gathered around the building hindering the free movement of fire brigade vehicles and fire personnel. Clearly, there was a breakdown of crowd management during this incident, which caused delays in the fire and ambulance services reaching etc. This kind of crowd gathering also poses a danger in the event of other emergencies like terror attacks. It presents additional opportunities for chaos for terrorists to create collateral damage and use the crowds and confusion to slip away, thereby representing further challenges and threats to the anti-terror operations itself for management of crowds.



Further to the Mumbai terror attacks, I had written to the Hon'ble Home Minister with some suggestions for managing crowds in scenes of action (copy attached).

It is therefore important that in case of emergencies, the local police has clear operating procedures and guidelines that create a No-crowd zone around the incident site. These specific guidelines for crowd management need to be put in place by the police where local citizens are evacuated and prohibited from entering the no-crowd zone around the scene of the incident.

I urge you to issue necessary directions at the earliest.

Very truly yours,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka
Bengaluru