Sr. No. 02

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH AT JAMMU

(TH. VIRTUAL MODE)
WP(C)PIL 13/2024 CM(5842/2024)

MOHD RAHOOF KHAN …Petitioner(s)/appellant(s)

Through: Mr. Rahoof Khan, Advocate Petitioner in person.

Vs.

UNION TERRITORY OF J AND K AND ORS ...Respondent(s)

Through: Ms. Monika Kohli, Sr. AAG.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE YASH PAUL BOURNEY, JUDGE

O R D E R
27.10.2026

1. The petitioner, appearing in person, submits that there is a gross violation of policy, thereby putting the general public at risk due to the non-implementation of the firefighting policy.
2. Learned Senior AAG Ms. Monika Kohli, counsel appearing for the respondents, has taken this Court to paragraph 7 of her reply filed on 02.07.2025, in which the parameters laid down by the Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India have been set out.
3. Paragraph 7 reads as follows:

> *7. In reply to Para 09 of the writ petition, it is respectfully submitted that the criteria for establishment of Fire Fighting Stations at different areas follows as under:-*
> *The standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) Ministry of Home Affairs Govt. of India has from time to time laid down guidelines for establishment of Fire Stations in the country on the following parameters:-*
>
> *I. Population*
> *II. Topography*
> *III. Risk Factor*
> *IV. Response Time based on distance from nearest fire stations.*

For 50000 population one "D" category Fire Station has to be provided. In Urban areas one Fire Station is recommended per 04 sq. miles-10.24 kms (say10 sq Kms). The risk factor has been divided into three zones based on risk hazard analysis as such a town has to be divided in three major groups.

1. High Risk Areas : "A" Zone
2. Medium Risk Areas :"B" Zone
3. Low Risk Areas :"C" Zone

Another "D" zone areas has been suggested for least or no risk zones mainly open or rural areas based on which aforesaid scales have been suggested which is also known as peace time primary scale.

The 10 sq. km area per Fire Station scale in view of the above is not mandatory. In high risk zones the areas may be lowered. The following response time has been suggested by Standing Fire Advisory Council for various risk zone:-

i. As per the norms the first fire tender should reach to the risk category of class A,B,C in 3 to 5 minutes and 20 minutes in D category Where A is high vulnerability, B is medium vulnerability, C is low vulnerability and D is for rural areas;
ii. One fire tender per 50,000 population upto 3 lack population. One additional fire tender per one lakh of population or a fraction thereof plus a reserve of 20% of the total water tender. In industrial cities and areas of high fire risk, the scale and other equipment's should be determined on the basis of actual survey of the area to be protected'
iii. One fire station per 10sq.km. area in urban area and 50 sq. kms in rural area;
iv. Fire Services response time maximum 5 minutes in urban area and 20 minutes in rural area;
v. One rescue tender per 3 to 10 lakhs population while it should be augmented by additional rescue tender for every additional 10 lakhs population.
vi. One or more special vehicles viz Turn Table Ladder, Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender/ Advance Rescue Tender, Extra Heavy Water Tender, Hose laying Tender, Lighting Van, Control Post Van, Break Down Van, Mobile

Workshop for repairs of Fire appliances, Mobile: Workshop for Telecom equipments etc. should be provided at selected fire stations or fire service divisional headquarter, according to local circumstances (number can be decided with the advice of local fire chief on the basis of actual risk analysis).

Risk Zone	*Suggestive Response Time*
For High Risk Zone "A"	*Maximum 3 minutes*
For Medium/Low Risk Zone "B"&"C"	*Maximum 5 minutes*
For Rural or Zone "D" areas	*Maximum 20 minutes*

For Non-built up open areas or rural areas one fire station may cover at least 5 times the area they cover in urban areas i.e. 50 sq. kms.
Fire Posts with provision of 1 portable pump, firefighting equipment and 6 firemen can also be recommended for particular locality in view of specific risk of the area.
Provisions of Fire Chowkis with provision of 01 Mini Water Tender along-with manpower can also be recommended for certain areas of lesser fire risk. A"D" category Fire Station has provision of 01 Water Tender and 01 portable fire pump along with manpower. An amount of Rs.130.00 lacs approximately is needed for establishment of a fire station with recurring and non-recurring expenditure including cost of land and construction of fire station building including creation of manpower (26 personal).

4. In view of the aforesaid submissions, this Court posed a question to Ms. Kohli, learned Senior AAG, as to the number of fire stations or firefighting establishments falling under Categories A, B, C and D, respectively, in the Union Territory (UT), in accordance with the policy referred to above.
5. In this regard, this Court formulated the aforesaid proposition into following questions:

   I. How many areas in the UT fall within each of the four risk categories, namely, high-risk (A), medium-risk (B), low-risk (C) and rural/low-risk (D)? The authorities shall furnish the exact number of areas falling under each category.

II. How many fire stations or firefighting establishments are required to be functional in each of the aforesaid categories, in accordance with the policy and the prescribed norms?

III. Out of the fire stations or firefighting establishments required to be functional under the aforesaid policy, how many are presently functional in each category?

6. Learned Senior AAG Ms. Monika Kohli shall furnish a single, consolidated, category-wise chart setting out the aforesaid particulars, supported by an affidavit.

7. List on 17.11.2026.

(YASH PAUL BOURNEY)
JUDGE

(DR. PUSHPENDRA SINGH BHATI)
CHIEF JUSTICE

SRINAGAR
27.10.2026
Hilal

HIGH COURT
JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH