

Regarding need to revise Model Home Guards Bill, 1965 and the Civil Defence Act/Rules-Laid

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for expediting the review and finalization of the Model Home Guards Bill, 1965 and the Civil Defence Act/Rules, which are currently under revision. A model draft of the revised legislation has reportedly been prepared and circulated among the stakeholders for comments. The Home Guards and Civil Defence organisations play a vital role in disaster response, internal security support, community safety, and emergency management across the country. However, the existing statutory framework is outdated, does not reflect current operational realities, and needs urgent strengthening to clearly define roles, responsibilities, service conditions, training standards, modernization requirements, and legal protections for personnel. Delay in finalising the revised legislative framework is affecting the preparedness and functioning of these forces in many States. I urge the Government to Expedite the consultation process with all stakeholders; Finalise the revised Model Home Guards Bill and the updated Civil Defence Act/Rules at the earliest and ensure that the new framework enables modernization, uniformity across States, and improved service conditions for the personnel. The matter requires immediate attention.