

FICCI'S STAND ON FIRE AT AMRI HOSPITAL, KOLKATA

New Delhi, January 2, 2012: FICCI is deeply distressed by the most unfortunate incidence of a fire engulfing the AMRI Hospital in Kolkata on Friday, 9th December, 2011 resulting in the tragic death of about 100 people.

The enormity of the tragedy has increased many- fold by its occurrence in a hospital which is universally perceived as providing relief and succor to those who seek shelter in it.

We in FICCI want to strongly emphasize that all necessary steps, both by the regulatory authorities and by the hospital operators must be taken forthwith to prevent any such incidents in future.

It is, however, important, in our view that a distinction is made in dealing with errors of omissions and intentional acts of commission.

It is important to also ensure that no overt or covert victimization of people takes place. Any action should be followed after due process of law to avoid such victimization.

It is important to fix the responsibility of those directly involved in managing the hospital and distinguish them from others. This should be undertaken transparently and objectively.

FICCI believes that those who are found guilty after such an enquiry should be punished without any discrimination or favour. Such a step will act as a necessary deterrent against any future negligence or malafide actions.

At the same time, those who are not found guilty and are not responsible for day to day operations of any business should be released immediately. This is only fair and will also prevent the spread of any negative sentiments within the domestic investor community and encourage future philanthropic activity under which more hospitals have been established.

FICCI desires to work closely with the Government of West Bengal to promote investment and accelerate economic activity across all sectors of the economy.

A judicious, non-discriminatory and objective handling of the AMRI case will go a long way in restoring the investors' confidence and allow FICCI to play its due role in West Bengal.

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