

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:528

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001

LACK OF FACILITIES AT ORDNANCE DEPOTS

ANANTA NAYAK;M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY;SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SHYAMA SINGH;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem published in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 29th May, 2001 regarding lack of facilities in Ordnance Depots;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have drawn any plan to modernise ordnance depots in view of recent fires in various ammunition dumps in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated therefor;
- (e) whether the Government have sought/propose to seek assistance from foreign countries in modernising the Ordnance Depots; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (f): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 528 FOR 25.7.2001.

The news items published in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 29th May 2001 has been perused. Due to paucity of funds, the ammunition storage facilities, presently existing, were not adequate to provide covered storage accommodation for ammunition held with various ammunition depots. As a consequences, a large quantity of ammunition had to be placed on open plinths covered by tarpaulins. The Government has since allotted funds for construction of additional storage accommodation. It is planned, that by the year 2003-2004, all ammunition would be shifted into covered accommodation.

The Government has drawn plans to modernize the Ordnance Depots. Initially, modernization of Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur has been undertaken at a cost of Rs. 187 crores. Projection for modernization of two more Ordnance Depots on similar lines at a cost of Rs. 300 crores each has been made in the 10th Army Plan. However, there are no plans to seek assistance from foreign countries for modernizing the Ordnance Depots.