

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5682
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002
EXPLOSION IN JAISALMER
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some jawans were killed and others sustained injuries in the explosion occurred in Jaisalmer of Rajasthan six month back;
- (b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured therein;
- (c) whether the Government have held any probe into the matter hitherto; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The figures of Jawans who have died or have sustained injuries as a result of mine explosions or explosion of Improvised Explosive Devices are not maintained on a state-wise basis. However, as per available records the Army Headquarters has informed that 61 Army personnel were killed and 159 were wounded due to mine accidents and Improvised Explosive Device explosions during the last 6 months (1st October 2001 to 31st March 2002).

(c) & (d): Initial high level inquiries revealed that the mine laying operations were carried out in adverse climatic and terrain conditions like night laying, fog, etc. Due to such constraints certain accidents could possibly be ascribed to human error. In certain cases, mines and fuzes held in inventory for a long period, did not perform satisfactorily. The Government have initiated steps to ensure that new mines and fuzes are introduced to replace the old inventories.