

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6628  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003  
TROOPS KILLED IN DE-MINING OPERATION  
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the army troops engaged in de-mining operations on the Indo-Pak border and LoC recently were killed as they were not provided with the safety equipment;
- (b) if so, the reasons for taking up the de-mining operations without providing them safety equipment; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): No, Sir, Adequate protective gear and demining equipment are available with the Army, who are engaged in demining operations in the forward areas, where land mines were laid during OPERATION PARAKRAM.

To ensure safety in demining operation, which is hazardous in nature, only trained army personnel who laid the mines and were familiar with the terrain, have been employed in recovery of the mines. Nevertheless, casualties do occur due to some mines becoming over sensitive, or sinking, or drifting from their original locations, because of the nature of the ground and terrain/environmental conditions.

(c) The Government has taken necessary steps to augment the existing resources with highly advanced equipment available internationally, so as to facilitate safe and expeditious completion of the on-going demining process.