

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:697

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003

FIRE IN AMMUNITION DEPOT IN RAJASTHAN

BHASKAR RAO PATIL;CHARAN DAS MAHANT;DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;KAMAL NATH;NARESH KUMAR  
PUGLIA;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

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

- (a) whether huge quantity of ammunitions was destroyed due to the devastating fire in Ordnance Depot in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the Government thereby;
- (c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry to know the causes of the devastating fire;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 697  
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There is no Ordnance Depot in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. However, a fire incident took place in a formation mine dump located at Danwar which is 70 Kms from Jaisalmer and is maintained by 30 Infantry Brigade under Southern Command. A Court of Inquiry to ascertain the cause of fire and extent of loss has been ordered by Headquarters Southern Command.

2. A preliminary investigation, however, reveals the following losses:-

Sl. No. Type of mine Quantity destroyed

- 1. NMM 4375
- 2. M-16 1422
- 3. ND MK-I 4422
- 4. ND MK-II 2939
- 5. Fuzes 2568

3. All cases of fire incidents in Ordnance/ammunition Depots have been investigated by Courts of Inquiry. The following steps/remedial actions have been taken:

- (i) All depots have been directed to update safety and security instructions.
- (ii) All depots have been inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of safety and security arrangements.
- (iii) Shortages in fire fighting equipment are being made up and defective equipment repaired.

(iv) Unserviceable ammunition is being disposed of on priority.

(v) Additional funds has been allotted for creation of more Explosive Store Houses for shifting ammunition presently stored on plinths under canvas.