

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2575
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
POST DE-MINING SCENARIO
A. VENKATESH NAIK;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether border area in post de-mining scenario is more dangerous than earlier;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that 20 percent of land mines could not be detected during the de-mining operation;
- (c) whether the Government have imported foreign de-miners to protect civilian population from landmines;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether such machines have been found effective;
- (f) whether the armed force personnel have been trained in such de-mining operations;
- (g) if not, the steps taken to sensitise the armed forces; and
- (h) the time by which the entire area of border will be made totally free from mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) Demining operations are currently in progress and therefore any reference to post-demining scenario is premature at this stage.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) to (e): Some demining equipments have been imported very recently, and it is too early to quantify the efficacy of the equipment under field conditions.
- (f) & (g): Armed Forces Personnel are trained in demining operations.
- (h) The exact time by which borders will be totally free from mines, cannot be stated with any degree of certainty, as it depends on various factors, such as weather condition, terrain configuration, safety measures being employed.