

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3221
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
SUPPLY OF MATCHING METALLIC DETONATORS
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the absence of Matching Metallic Detonators has rendered 1.91 lakh grenades useless, and grenades of the value of Rs. 8.94 crore have thereby accumulated at various Arms Depots;
- (b) if so, whether Rs. 22.08 crores spent on their manufacture has thus gone waste;
- (c) the reasons for non-supply of matching metallic detonators;
- (d) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the short supply; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps are envisaged to prevent recurrence?

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. 3221 FO 14.8.2003.

A shortfall in supply of quality complaint metallic detonators resulting in rendition of 1.91 lakh grenades, valued at Rs. 8.94 Crores as unusable and an expenditure of Rs. 22.08 Crores incurred on production of 11.50 lakh defective detonators having become wasteful has been reported in para 9 of the Report No. 6 of 2003 (Defence Services) of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

In this regard it is stated that the grenades were supplied by the Ordnance Factories along with matching detonators which were as per the specifications and accepted by the Director General Quality Assurance. However due to under performance of these detonators in field conditions a ban on use of these detonators was imposed by the Army Headquarters. The grenades are upgraded as serviceable on association of detonators, therefore classifying such accumulation of grenades, as useless, is not correct.

Further based on trials, in consultation with the user directorate, production of detonators of 4 second delay has been approved with three years shelf life. The Ordnance Factories have already supplied 4 lakh and 3.25 lakh detonators of 4 second delay during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively. The production of detonators of 7 second delay has not yet commenced pending clearance of the trials being carried out in consultation with the user directorate.

As regards 11.5 lakh detonators reported as defective/unserviceable in the report of the Comptroller Auditor General of India, it is stated that based on the revalidation trials only 3.13 lakh detonators (1.86 lakh of 4 second delay and 1.27 lakh of 7 second delay) were found unserviceable.

Since the grenades were initially supplied with matching detonators there is no question of holding anybody responsible for short supply of detonators.