

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2639
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003
BAN ON NG BASED EXPLOSIVES
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government is aware that NG based explosives are the main source of preparing land mines by extremists and naxalite groups;
- (b) if so, whether the most affected State Governments particularly of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government for banning the NG based explosives and introduction of delay Electric Detonators and slurry type explosives to prevent the dangers of land mines;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government has taken any decision in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. NG based explosives are reportedly the preferred choice of extremists and anti-social groups for preparing land mines. The Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government for banning NG based explosives and introduction of delay Electric Detonators and slurry type explosives to prevent the danger of land mines.

(c) to (e) Government had set up a Committee to look into the issue of phasing out of NG based explosives. The Committee has recommended phasing out NG based explosives in a gradual manner in three phases starting from April, 2002 - April, 2006. The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted and are being implemented by the Government.

In pursuance of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, the Government has advised all the state governments and user ministries to issue necessary instructions to reduce the consumption of NG based explosives to 50% of their existing consumption by 2004. The Government has also issued a notification under section 6.1(a) of the Explosives Act, prohibiting the issue of fresh licences for possession and use of NG based explosives by Department of Explosives and District authorities.

The issue of introduction of delayed action detonators was examined in consultation with expert agencies like High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL) and Director General of Mines Safety. In view of the consumers' requirement and manufacturing difficulties, a further time delay in detonators has not been found feasible.