

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:677
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2005
FIRE IN AMMUNITION DEPOTS
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of incidents of fire which took place in various Ammunition Depots in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the total loss of lives and property as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has lost several crore of rupees in devastating fire in Central Ammunition Depot at Pulgaon in Maharashtra;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the persons killed and injured therein;
- (e) whether in the recent past, fire at Ammunition Depots are taking place regularly in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;
- (f) if so, whether the causes of fire at Amla, Chandrapur and Pulgaon Ammunition Depots have been inquired;
- (g) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (h) the corrective steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 677 FOR 12.5.2005

Four incidents of fire have been reported in Ammunition Depots during 2002-2005. The estimated value of loss of property in these incidents is as under:

Sl. No.	Ammunition Depots (in Rupees)	Date of incident	Estimated Loss
1.	Ammunition Depot, Dappar	27th July, 2002	Nil
2.	19 Field Ammunition Depot, Jodhpur	2nd August, 2002	31.54lakhs
3.	Indian Air Force Ammunition Depot, Amla	10th July, 2004	27.84 crores
4.	Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon	22nd March, 2005	22 crores

Two civilian Mazdoors died in the incident in Ammunition Depot Dappar.

There was a fire at Central Ammunition Depot Pulgaon on 22nd March 2005 in which Ammunition worth Rs. 22 crores approximately has been lost. Minor injuries to three Defence Security Corps personnel have been reported. The Courts of Inquiry in respect of Central Ammunition Depot Pulgaon and Indian Air Force Ammunition Depot, Amla are under progress. There is no Ammunition Depot at Chandrapur.

Following steps/remedial measures have been taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents:

(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) Shortage in fire fighting equipment are being made up and defective equipment repaired.

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

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