

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:641
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
MISSILES FOUND IN SEA
Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some missiles were found in the sea near Visakhapatnam;
- (b) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted to know to whom these missiles belonged;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether these missiles have been removed from the sea; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to remove these missiles from the sea?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 641 FOR ANSWER ON 23.2.2006

No missiles have been found in the sea near Visakhapatnam. However, a metallic object was found entangled in the nets of a fisherman while trawling off Vishakhapatnam. The metallic object, while being cut by an Oxy Arc flame by the scrap dealer, caught fire and propelled forward for some distance. As a result, one girl child was killed and a few persons were injured. It also created panic among the residents. The matter was investigated by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team of the Indian Navy and the object was found to be a used anti-submarine rocket projectile fired by the Indian Navy during its exercises. The practice projectiles are routinely fired by the Indian Navy ships and these sink to the bottom of the sea on completion of their flight. It is not possible to recover the used rocket projectile from the sea-bed due to its small size. It is a rare phenomenon that the used projectile gets entangled in a fisherman's net. However, as these practice projectiles do not carry warhead/high explosives, the used projectiles are not harmful provided these are not subject to excessive heat. To avoid recurrence of such incidents in future, the fishing community along the coastline is being advised through State Governments/Union Territories, local media and police that if they recover such objects during fishing, the Indian Navy should be informed immediately and they should not attempt to dispose off such objects themselves.