

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
EXPLOSION IN SRIHARIKOTA SPACE LAUNCH CENTRE
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was an explosion at the ISRO Space Launch Centre at Sriharikota resulting in the death of some technical staff;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by the Government into the explosion; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a) There was a fire accident at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 23rd February 2004.
- (b) The fire accident occurred on a segment of a development solid rocket motor at the Solid Propellant Space Booster Plant (SPROB) at SDSC SHAR in the afternoon of 23.02.2004. The accident occurred at the time of the final operations of removing the fixtures when the propellant in the segment inadvertently caught fire. Seven persons lost their lives.
- (c) A High Power Committee constituted to investigate this accident has submitted its final report. The Committee came to the conclusion that the primary cause of the accident was due to propellant leak between two sliding metallic surfaces. The leaked propellant got ignited due to the friction induced heating during the removal of the casting fixtures.
- (d) Action has been initiated to implement the recommendations of the Committee.