

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3667  
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010  
FIRE INCIDENTS IN ORDNANCE DEPOTS  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of fire incidents occurred in the ordnance depots during the last three years;
- (b) the details of loss of arms and ammunition, life and property in each case, separately;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted inquiry in each case;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof, separately and action taken thereon; and
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3667 FOR ANSWER ON 19.4.2010

The details of fire incidents in the Army Ordnance / Ammunition Depots during last three years are as under:-

(a) On 11.8.2007, a fire broke out in 21 Field Ammunition Depot (21 FAD) Khundroo in Jammu & Kashmir. Nineteen people died and approximately 10,000 MTs of ammunition worth of Rs.692 Crores was destroyed in the incident.

(b) On 26.3.2010, a fire incident took place in Ammunition Depot (AD) Panagarh in West Bengal in which approximately 332 MTs of ammunition worth of 18 Crores was destroyed. There was no loss of life in the incident.

2. In each of the incidents, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Army. The Court of Inquiry in respect of the fire incident at 21 FAD Khundroo has been completed while the same in respect of the Ammunition Depot (AD) Panagarh is under progress.

3. The following measures have been taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future:-

- (i) All depots have updated safety and security instructions.
- (ii) All depots have been inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of fire safety and security arrangements.
- (iii) 349 trucks for fire fighting have been provided to the Units in 2009-10.
- (iv) Unserviceable ammunition is being disposed off on priority.
- (v) Shortage of storage accommodation is being made up gradually. Rs.1736 Crores have been allocated from 1999 onwards for ammunition storage accommodation.