

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4213
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
FIRE IN ORDNANCE DEPOTS
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fire incidents in army ordnance depots during the last three years;
- (b) the quantum of ammunition destroyed and loss of lives and property alongwith the value thereof in each case during the said period, separately;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted inquiry into each of the incidents separately;
- (d) if so, the details of the findings of each inquiry;
- (e) the action taken thereon and the extent to which affected civilians have been compensated by the Government; and
- (f) the measures being taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4213 FOR ANSWER ON 6.12.2010

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

- a) On 26.03.2010, a fire incident took place in Ammunition Depot (AD) Panagarh in which approximately 332 MTs of ammunition worth Rs. 18 crores was destroyed. There was no loss of life in the incident.
 - b) On 20.11.2010, a fire incident took place in Ammunition Point (AP) Binnaguri in West Bengal in which approximately 19 MT Unserviceable Ammunition/Portion of Two rooms Explosive Store Houses (ESH)-12 were damaged. Value of Ammunition destroyed is yet to be ascertained.
2. A Staff Court of Inquiry has been ordered in each case by GOC-in-C HQ Eastern Command.
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.
 - (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.