

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1733

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

FIRE IN ORDNANCE DEPOTS

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

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

- (a) whether there is unprecedented increase in the incidents of fire in Army ordnance depots;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of ammunition destroyed and loss of lives and property alongwith the value thereof in each case during the last three years separately;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted inquiry into each incident 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 concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future and to safeguard the interests of civilians?

**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. 1733 FOR ANSWER ON 7.3.2011

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

(a) On 26.3.2010 a fire incident took place in Ammunition Depot (AD), Panagarh, West Bengal 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), Binaguri, West Bengal, in which approximately 19 MTs of unserviceable ammunition/portion of two rooms Explosive store house were damaged. There has been no loss of life in the incident.

2. A Staff Court of Inquiry has been ordered in each of the two cases by GOC-in-C HQ Eastern Command.

3. The measures which have been taken in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future are as under:-

- (i) All Depots have updated security and safety instructions.
- (ii) All depots have been inspected by the 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) Rs.1736 crores have been sanctioned since 1999 for ammunition storage accommodation.

Modernisation of Army Ordnance Depots including improvement of safety and security instructions is an on-going process.