

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:422

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

USE OF AMMONIUM NITRATE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Jeyadurai Shri S. R.;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports of the use of Ammonium Nitrate in explosives in various terrorist activities in the country which is commonly used as a fertiliser;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to amend the relevant statutes so as to regulate its free movement in view of its reported use in various blasts/terror attacks in the country including Delhi blasts in 2008 and Mumbai blasts in 2011;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has also urged the State Governments to frame elaborate rules under the Act to regulate manufacture, storage, transport and sale of explosives including Ammonium Nitrate; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (f): Yes, Madam. In various cases of terrorist/bomb blasts such as the German Bakery bomb blast case of Pune and the bomb blast near Jama Masjid in Delhi, "Ammonium Nitrate" was found to have been used as one of the ingredients of the Improvised Explosive Charge. Ammonium Nitrate was also used in the recent Serial Bomb Blasts in Mumbai on 13.07.2011.

In India, Ammonium Nitrate has not been permitted as a fertilizer under the Fertilizers Control Order (FCO), 1985 of the Government of India, hence it is not permitted to be sold as fertilizer in the country.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified that Ammonium Nitrate or any combination containing more than 45% of Ammonium Nitrate by weight including emulsions, suspensions, melts or gels (with or without inorganic nitrate) shall be deemed to be an explosive within the meaning of the Explosive Act, 1884 (IV of 1884) so that a separate set of rules to regulate, manufacture, storage, transport and sale of Ammonium Nitrate can be framed. Government of India has issued Notification No. S.O. 1678 (E) dated 21.07.2011 to this effect.