

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:730

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

FIRE IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the increasing incidents of fire/blasts in ordnance factories including the ordnance factory, Khamaria in Jabalpur;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry to ascertain reasons for occurrence of such incidents;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) the action taken by the Government on the basis of each of such inquiries; and
- (e) the measures being taken to provide adequate fire fighting training to the staff?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) Ordnance Factory Board has taken cognizance of all incidents of fire/ blasts in ordnance factories and put in place preventive measures to avoid recurrence.

There has been no fire/blast incident in Ordnance Factory, Khamaria in Jabalpur during last two years.

(b) In every case of fire/blast, Ordnance Factory Organisation has conducted a preliminary investigation and constituted a Statutory Board of Inquiry with proper terms of reference to find out the cause of such incidents and to suggest remedial measures.

(c) In most of the cases, it is noted that the probable cause of accident was either due to mechanical failure of the equipment or due to non-observance of safety regulations by the concerned person at that point of time.

(d) All the remedial measures as suggested by the Statutory Board of Inquiry are being implemented within stipulated time after their acceptance by the competent authority. Stringent safety audits are also carried out to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

(e) Adequate fire fighting training is provided to the staff by CFEES (Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety), New Delhi on regular and continuous basis. Officers are being deputed for one year DIS (Diploma in Industrial Safety) course, conducted by RLI (Regional Labour Institute) at Chennai, Kolkata, Kanpur, Faridabad and CLI (Central Labour Institute) at Mumbai. At present, 67 officers in OFB are holding Industrial Safety Diploma.