

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6013

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

FIRE IN ORDNANCE DEPOTS

Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma; Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of unprecedented increase in the incidents of fire in Army ordnance depots;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum and value of ammunition destroyed and loss of lives and property in each case during the last three years, 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 and the extent to which affected civilians have been compensated by Government; and
- (f) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents and to safeguard the interests of civilians?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY 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. 6013 FOR ANSWER ON 14.5.2012 The details of fire incidents in the Army Ordnance/Ammunition Depots during last three years are as under:

(a) On 26.3.2010, a fire incident took place in Ammunition Depot (AD) Panagarh in which 332 MTs of ammunition worth Rs.18 crores was destroyed. (b) On 20.11.2010, a fire incident took place in Ammunition Point (AP) Binaguri in West Bengal in which 19 MT Unserviceable Ammunition of 'nil' value was damaged.

There was no loss of life in both the incidents.

2. A Staff Court of Inquiry was ordered in each case by GOC-in-C HQ Eastern Command and no individual was found blameworthy for these incidents. No civilian was affected in the incidents.

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) Rs.1736 crores have been allocated from 1999 onwards for ammunition storage accommodation.