

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4433
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
. PILFERAGE OF AMMONIUM NITRATE
Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up a committee in the recent past to regulate the sale and pilferage of explosives such as ammonium nitrate, gelatine sticks and detonators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the said committee has since submitted its report to the Union Government and if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said committee; and
- (d) the concrete measures taken by the Government to regulate the sale and pilferage of explosive substances?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a): A Committee was constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 22.9.2009 to frame rules and regulations for bonafide use of Ammonium Nitrate for legitimate purposes under the Explosives Substance Act, 1908.

(b) & (c): The Committee consisted of representatives from Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Home affairs, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Directorate General of Mines Safety and Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organisation, a subordinate office of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion. The Committee deliberated issues concerning regulation of ammonium nitrate in its two meetings. The Committee prepared the draft Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2011, for regulating the manufacturing, conversion, import, export, stevedoring, bagging, transport and possession for sale or use of the Ammonium Nitrate all over India. Objections and suggestions received from concerned stakeholders on the said draft rules were duly considered by the Central Government and the Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 were finalized and notified under the Explosives Act, 1884, vide Notification No. GSR No.553(E) on 11.7.2012 in order to regulate the manufacturing, storage, sale, use, transportation, import and export of ammonium nitrate.

(d): Activities related to manufacture, import, export, transport, storage, sale and use of explosives including ammonium nitrate are regulated through the Explosives Rules 2008 and the Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 framed under the Explosives Act, 1884. In addition, the Union Government has requested Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/Union Territories to instruct all District Superintendents of Police and Police Commissioners to ensure safe transit of vehicles carrying explosives through their respective districts and to provide armed guards to escort these vehicles at all times within the jurisdiction of their respective districts; and to monitor all the existing units involved in the handling of Ammonium Nitrate as per the provisions under Ammonium Nitrate (AN) Rules 2012.