

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1091
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
MODERNIZATION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of accidents taking place in various Ordnance factories in the country including Jabalpur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to modernize and provide updated machinery in these Ordnance factories including Jabalpur; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Accidents have taken place in a few Ordnance Factories in the country including Jabalpur in the recent past. The details of such accidents during 2013 and 2014 are enclosed as Annexure-A. In all the cases immediate medical treatment was provided to the injured persons within the factory concerned and they were shifted to outside hospitals equipped with better medical facilities, wherever necessary. As a proactive measure to avoid accidents a detailed safety procedure in terms of general safety directives / standing instructions and system of safety audits exists for handling / storage of ammunition and explosives in Ordnance Factories.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Replacement of existing plant & machinery is a continuous process in Ordnance Factories so as to keep pace with the latest technology. Ordnance Factory Board has formulated a comprehensive five year modernization plan for capital investment in different Ordnance Factories including those where accidents have taken place in the recent past. Already an expenditure of Rs.783 crore and Rs.1156 crore has taken place in different ordnance factories on this account in the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. Further investment of Rs.7696 crore is envisaged in the remaining three years of the 12th Plan (2012-17).

Modernization plans are made as per the guidelines of Centre for Fire Explosives and Environment Safety (CFEES). Design of process and storage buildings in Ammunition & Explosive Group of Factories is approved by CFEES.

As an exercise towards improving safety in Ordnance Factories, steps are being taken to reduce manual intervention in various operations and processes. Ordnance Factories are investing on higher degree of automation, including automatic filling, in chemicals and ammunition manufacturing plants.