

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1862  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002  
BAN ON GELATIN BASED EXPLOSIVES  
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**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether on the basis of a request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to ban Gelatin based explosives, the Government have decided to ban only the production and use of NG-based explosives, and to phase out its use over a specific period on the basis of recommendations of Committee headed by Ex-Managing Director and Chairman of a Slurry based multinational company (IDL);
- (b) whether all the explosives namely NG, Slurry and Emulsion based explosives are called Gelatins and cannot be exploded without detonators;
- (c) if so, the reasons for imposing ban on NG-based Gelatins only when all the Gelatins are equally safe and destructive with detonators;
- (d) whether this decision results in imminent closure of 4 NG-based manufacturing units leaving the multinational companies producing emulsion based Gelatins to enjoy a monopoly; and
- (e) if so, the facts in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

- (a) : In view of the reported misuse of NG-based explosives and the safety/security/law and order concerns expressed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Ministry of Home Affairs, a Committee comprising the Chief Controller of Explosives and the then Chairman, Development Council for Explosives Industry was constituted to look into various aspects of manufacture, distribution, sale and proposed phasing-out of NG-based explosives. The Committee had broad-based consultations with manufacturers, users and other stake holders including NG-based explosives manufacturers. The Committee's report which proposes a gradual phasing-out of NG-based explosives over a minimum period of five years has been considered and accepted by the Government.
- (b) & (c) : NG-based explosives are normally called gelatins while slurry and emulsion based explosives are called gelatins. While none of these explosives can be exploded without detonators, NG-based explosives have been preferred by extremist/unlawful elements on account of their longer shelf life. Security/safety/law and order concerns, apart from other technical reasons, have provided the basis for the proposed phasing-out of NG-based explosives. NG-based explosives are also being increasingly phased out all over the world and presently only 12% of the global output of civil explosives is NG-based explosives.
- (d) & (e) : Since phasing-out provides sufficient time for switch over to non-NG based explosives, adverse implications on the explosives sector are not anticipated. The average consumption of NG-based explosives in India is only around 7 percent and is primarily for specified applications. The phasing-out programme will provide sufficient time and opportunity to move to newer technologies which, while involving some investment, will be in the larger interest of the explosives sector and not have any adverse implications for the manufacturing units or its employees.