

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1784
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000
INQUIRY INTO ACQUISITION OF DEFECTIVE MINE BODIES
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Army Headquarters placed three indents for the supply of 3,12,856 Bar Mines on some suppliers during 1992 to 1996 and the suppliers made defective mine bodies;
- (b) if so, whether any inquiry was made and the responsibility fixed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1784 FC
3.8.2000

Army headquarters had placed indents on Ordnance Factory Board during 1992 to 1996 for procurement of 3,12,856 numbers of Bar Mines.

2. In order to manufacture the mines, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) had purchased empty plastic mine bodies from trade sources. The empty bodies were inspected and accepted by the concerned quality assurance department. The Bar Mines after being filled with explosives were again inspected and accepted by the concerned quality assurance department and were issued to the Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), Pulgaon.

3. After receipt of the mines at CAD, Pulgaon, defects were noticed in 25,515 mines. The defects were rectified by the concerned supplier at his own cost and were accepted by the ammunition depot and the concerned quality assurance department. Quantity 795 numbers of Mines were finally rejected, for which the cost has been recovered by the OFB from the concerned firm.

4. Fact finding inquiry conducted into the defective mines accepted against supply order of 1994 indicted two Army Officers and four civilian officials. The Army authorities after conducting Summary of Evidence closed the case for want of incriminating evidence. Out of four civilian officials, disciplinary action against one could not be taken being time barred. As regards the other three, major penalty proceedings under Rule 14 of Central Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules 1965 were initiated against them in consultation with CVC which culminated in award of major penalties to two officials while departmental inquiry is still in progress against the third.