

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:683
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
SHIFTING OF AMMUNITION DUMP
Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any representations regarding shifting of Ammunition Dump from Vallah (Amritsar) to some other place;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 683 FOR ANSWER ON 23.2.2006

The following representations have been received regarding shifting of Ammunition Dump from Vallah (Amritsar) to some other place:-

- (i) Demi-official letter dated 19th July 2004 from Dr. Ratan Singh Ajnala, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).
- (ii) Letter dated 20th August 2004 from Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) forwarding representation from the Welfare Association of Village Vallah (District Amritsar).
- (iii) Petition on the subject-matter addressed to the Chief of the Army Staff received in October 2004.
- (iv) Petition from (Retd) Captain Rajesh Chandok, District Secretary, All India Human Rights Society received in October 2004.
- (v) Petition dated 14th February 2005 from Shri Sohan Lal, Secretary, Ex-servicemen Protection Forum.
- (vi) Petition dated 11th December 2005 from the Fruit and Vegetable Merchant Union, Mewa Mandi, Amritsar.
- (vii) Demi-official letter dated 14th December 2005 from Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

A Gazette Notification declaring a clearance zone of 1000 yards of land in the vicinity of Vallah Ammunition Dump, District Amritsar had been issued on 11th November, 2004. The Government in response to the representations has apprised that the ammunition dump at Cantonment Vallah (Amritsar) stocks vital ammunition and explosives. Due to its strategic location, the ammunition dump is very important from an operational point of view. As also, its location assists quick mobilization of forces.