

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2065

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006

EXPLOSION IN INS MAGAR

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an explosion took place recently in the Navy war-ship INS Magar;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of people injured/killed in the said explosion; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2065 FOR ANSWER ON 9.3.2006

The Indian Navy ship INS, Magar sailed from Vishakhapatnam on 22nd February, 2006 to dump life-expired ammunition in the sea. There were 224 boxes to be dumped. After the dumping of 220 boxes, one of the boxes caught fire igniting another box at 1702 Hrs on 22nd February, 2006. The resultant fire claimed the life of three sailors and seriously injured 6 sailors who were evacuated by helicopter to the Naval hospital at Vishakhapatnam. Two of the six injured sailors subsequently died. In addition, 13 sailors, who received burn injuries, were admitted to hospital, of whom 7 sailors have been discharged after receiving necessary treatment. The ship did not suffer any structural damage in this accident. Dumping of life-expired ammunition is a standard practice and is conducted according to requirements in earmarked dumping areas. This is the first such incident that has occurred while dumping life-expired ammunition. A Board of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the reasons of this accident. On receipt of the Report, further remedial measures will be instituted to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.