

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1367  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006  
DISAPPEARANCE OF EXPLOSIVES  
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the 100 tonnes explosives alongwith containers sent by ship for Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to Afghanistan which had disappeared in the sea route has been used in India and is the root cause of sudden spurt in the terrorist activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the defence agencies have recovered these explosives;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the precautionary measure taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1367 FOR ANSWER ON 3.8.2006

The Border Roads Organization has been entrusted with a road building project in Afghanistan. In connection with execution of that work, in December 2005, a consignment of six containers carrying explosives which were being sent for this Project, were lost in the sea off Mumbai coast between 22nd and 23rd December 2005. The manufacturer of the explosives is M/s. Premier Explosives Ltd. Secunderabad. In accordance with the contractual conditions, the responsibility for the security, shipment, transportation, insurance and delivery to the Project in Afghanistan was that of the manufacturer. BRO was merely the consignee of these goods. The vessel MV EUGENIA was hired by the manufacturer's shipping agent M/s. Unimarine Agencies.

2. The ship was brought into Mumbai Anchorage on 23rd December 2005. From the six containers, four have been extricated and their contents verified and found to be in order. Two containers were not traced and the Navy is of the opinion that these containers may have merged with the wrecks of 2 ships, lying in the same area or may have been drifted away. The four containers have been shifted to the premises of the manufacturer M/s. Premier Explosives and explosives were destroyed. As for the remaining two containers the exposure to moisture would have rendered the explosives useless. It may be mentioned that the shelf life of these explosives is only six months. Hence there is no linkage between the sudden spurt in terrorist activities with the loss which occurred in December 2005.

3. As a precautionary measure, BRO have cancelled the supply order placed on M/s Premier Explosives, Secunderabad. The work of the project is being carried out by procurement of explosives from Iran and local sources in Afghanistan.