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Title : Regarding alleged illegal sale of rifle cartridges from ordnance factory, Bolangir, Orissa.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important news item published in the Bhubaneswar Edition of the Indian Express dated 2 August, 2005 titled "The Enemy Within". Now, this article pertains to the goings-on in the Ordnance Factory in my parliamentary constituency. This Ordnance Factory is located at Badmal in Saintala in Bolangir District. Sir, a few years ago, several Bofors shells were found lying on the roadside between Raipur and Durg which were meant actually for the Ordnance Factory at Badmal. This time 30-mm rifle shells have been found lying on the roadside as they fell out of two gunny bags which were being carried by a *kabariwala* or a scrap-dealer on a cycle. I have the FIR and the news item also with me in case anybody is interested to see them.

The matter which really needs to be investigated is how these 30-mm rifle shells have been sold as scrap by top officials of the Ordnance Factory in Badmal. After the arrest of one person or after the FIR was lodged, the entire Ordnance Factory officials have gone into a tizzy trying to hush up the entire matter. Now, I would like to make a point here that at a time when terrorism, naxal and Maoist activities are on the rise in the country and the country's security is in question, then these Ordnance Factories which are meant and which do produce ammunition for the Armed Forces are selling the same ammunition shells as scrap. Can the security of the country be really safe in the hands of the 'enemy within'?

* Not Recorded

I would like to request, through you, Sir, to the hon. Defence Minister to take note of the serious nature of the incident which has occurred, and a high-level Committee should be constituted to enquire into this absolutely appalling and shocking case of corruption in Badmal Ordnance Factory and stringent action should be taken against the traitors within.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I shall look into the matter and get back to her.